

**PAUL BERNARDO'S MYSTERY WOMAN**

CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

# Maclean's

AUGUST 26, 1996

SPECIAL

REPORT

A young boy with reddish-brown hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt, blue jeans, and a backpack, is sitting on a large red surfboard. He is smiling and looking at the camera while using a laptop computer. The background is a textured, greyish surface.

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# Maclean's

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

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Photograph by Jeff M. Harris for Maclean's

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# From The Editor

## Charge of the right brigade

The following is a guest editorial by Maclean's Ottawa Editor Anthony Wilson-Smith:



“There is always a certain easiness in the argument of conservatism, joined with a certain superiority in its fact,” observed American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1842. Even then, in short, there were those who took for granted that when it came to politics, a right wing

view meant being right in every way. What comfort that notion must provide to the members of the Youth Federation of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada—even as they would after cold comfort in the future to Canadians who are ill, aging, struggling financially, or all three. Some proposals announced by the Baby Bunch on the eve of a crucial general PC party convention in Winnipeg this week could have come straight from the increasingly ultraright Republican Party that met in San Diego last week: a sharp cut in wage employment insurance; elimination of the Canada Pension Plan for anyone under 65; and a partial privatisation of Medicare. Candidates, says Tobias Kornblith, president of the Tories’ youth wing, “should be able to pay as much for private medical care as they are prepared to spend on vice cities. We want to give them that option.”

That implies that many Canadians view the options of either two weeks at the beach or open-heart surgery as interchangeable. It ignores the fact that westerners in themselves are not an option for the underprivileged Canadians most at risk in a two-tiered health care system. The young Tories also suggest that more private-



Charest, pressured by the Baby Bunch

care of health care would be more efficient. That ignores the fact that spending on health care in the United States, measured as a percentage of the gross domestic product, is significantly higher than in Canada.

True, the young Tories’ proposals don’t represent formal party policy—and almost certainly will not when the convention ends this weekend. Although party leader Jean Charest diplomatically suggested the health-care reform proposal should “not be written off,” he is unlikely to endorse it. A poll conducted for the federal government recently by the Ernst & Young Strategy Group found that an overwhelming percentage of respondents consider health care spending unchangeable—to the point where many would rather see taxes increased than health expenditures reduced.

But with political enemies like the Baby Bunch, who needs friends? In the wake of their proposal, Preston Manning’s Reform party now finds new ideological soul mates at precisely the time at which some Reform MPs are musing over whether the party should moderate its views to broaden its appeal. And Jean Charest’s Liberals want nothing more than to prevent themselves at election time as the only large national party in favor of one-tier, universal-access health care. The irony is that the Liberals, through budget cuts and transfer of powers to the provinces, have done more than any previous government to dismantle the country’s network of social programs. The Baby Bunch, nonetheless, may give the Liberals an air of legitimacy on this issue that they don’t deserve. And at election time, moderate Canadian voters may remain polite from all parties that just because there is no left left, that doesn’t necessarily make the right right either.

## Newsroom Notes:

### High-tech revolution

In the face of the widespread notion that schools don’t educate students as well as they once did, is it possible that students receive too much information? Maclean’s Education Editor Victor Dwyer first confronted that question last spring, when he began preparing this week’s cover story on the effects of computers in elementary and secondary schools. Even as schools across Canada cut expenses



Dwyer, Deborah Johnston using the World Wide Web to report

in almost every other area, spending on computer-related items is increasing. But some educators worry that students heading onto the information highway are becoming more estranged than enlightened.

For Dwyer, it was only to understand the claims it was the first time he had used the World Wide Web extensively as a reporting tool. It was an ideal medium for connecting with the high-tech community. Within weeks, he and Assistant Managing Editor Ann Downett Johnston, who oversee this week’s special report, will return to more familiar ground—the preparation of the magazine’s annual anniversary magazine issue, scheduled to hit newsstands in November.



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An American View



## Fred Bruning Public ignorance and political opportunism

**A**ttempting to revive his coggone-deprived presidential campaign, Republican hopeful Bob Dole is carefully proposing a three-point plan that they would, least the U.S. Treasury and guarantee a creaking deficit until the third millennium. Dole's scheme—offered on the eve of last week's GOP convention in San Diego and his taping of former congressman and pro quarterback Jack Kemp as a running mate—sparks wild assumptions about growth and relies on the sort of supply-side economics the candidate once considered a mascot. But it's the political season. The quadrennial fallows are under way. Timing counts, not color. All things are possible.

The fundamental assumption at this level of competition is that the American people can—and must—be manipulated like an artifice in the hands of a circuspractor. The temptations is irresistible. We are in general an impressionable and glibble nation, eager to believe. If an idea sounds good, we are ready to buy—small print aside. But when politicians are the sales personnel, consumers should be on full alert. It is one thing to trust someone who says there was life on Mars a few billion years ago; another is trusting a presidential hopeful who says he is going to lower your taxes by 15 per cent without loss or bother. This is not like clearing bacteria may have appeared in outer space. Rather, it is like announcing little green men are going to land soon after inauguration Day taking bags of money for the masses.

But, sure enough, polls showed a considerable number of U.S. voters impressed with the Dole plan and so the play is working, at least for now. It could be argued under these circumstances that the American public is acting only what it deserves. Dole's pitch is to greed and the 1980s-style mind-set that desires individual advantage over common good. When a nation surrenders so readily to self-absorption, leaders play the body politic like a washboard in a cybered band. *Latent in how trepid mind?*

The same wary ethic pertained when President Clinton turned his back on cherished principles of the Democratic party and pledged to sign what will be remembered as the most misbegotten bit of federal legislation of the last half-century—the 1996 welfare "reform" bill. Almost everything about the measure is reprehensible. It hits recipients of food stamps, the disabled and legal immigrants. It ends six decades of cash assistance for the poorest families in America by dismantling the program known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children. It sets a lifetime benefit limit of five years for welfare clients. It sacrifices small-mindedness and causes to perpetrate. Manipulating as a merciful end at "dependency," it punishes the poor for being poor.

What matters most of course is that the initiative plays well to

middle-class constituents who say they are weary of supporting government giveaways. They view the program as relics of the New Deal that benefit only those groups and individuals on the margins of society. They envision young black women procreating for the sake of padding their pockets. They imagine barely elderly men sloshing on street corners when they could be working. They think foreigners are streaming to these shores for the sole purpose of siphoning a few bucks from the government.

Believing out statistics that show public assistance mainly benefits the welfare and protects children from hunger and homelessness is a shameless lie. Born in the Information Age, people believe only what they choose. Facts simply confuse the issue and politicians are never reluctant to take advantage of ignorance. Republicans know exactly what they were doing by hatching the welfare bill. More discouraging was the willingness of a Democratic president to oblige the conspiracy.

It was an unlikely alliance that left Representative John Lewis, a veteran Democratic congressman from Georgia, mightily aggrieved. "Where is the compassion?" Lewis asked. "Where is the sense of decency? What does it profit a great nation to condescend to the poor?" Lewis, a man of great advantage was Clinton's primary, however, not spiritual setback. "This is the best chance we will have for a long, long time to end welfare as we know it," the President said. Spare us the blarney of trunpets. All Clinton needed was the illusion that his lofty words amounted to anything more than a reward lease on the White House. Let's hope our well-fed President sleeps well between his soft, government-suggested sheets. Others will be far less cozy.

We cannot as a nation expect serious moral leadership from individuals like Dole and Clinton—dread operators who long ago surrendered to expediency. They say otherwise, but they have convinced themselves they must do anything it was because, if elected, the other guy will make things even worse. But there is a danger in this kind of political cross-dressing—the risk that the candidate indeed will become the other guy and shun what constituents had been assured were his fundamental beliefs. Who can blame the people for being cynical about politics when its practitioners prove so slippery?

Americans have no choice but to set their own ethical agenda—to rely less on powerful people who make empty promises and offer simple, feel-good answers to complicated problems. We must pay attention and not grow weak when someone in a good suit hails the flag and ends a speech by saying, "God bless America." We must make the distinction between leadership and charapetrac. "Where is the sense of decency?" asks John Lewis. It is a haunting and inescapable question that we must answer for ourselves. On this account, Americans should anticipate no help from their politicians.

Fred Bruning is a writer with Newsday in New York.

# Opening Notes

Edited by BARBARA WICKMAN

## In orbit over Planet Hollywood

Hollywood tough guys Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone and Bruce Willis may have finally met their match. But their current senses are so bemused-to-binge. It comes instead in the normally red-carpeted, banistered form of Febich Columbia's liquor licensing concession. The stars are major shareholders in celebrity front men for the glitzy Orlando, Fla.-based restaurant chain Planet Hollywood, which boasts 30 locations worldwide—and had plans to open its first Canadian outlet in downtown Vancouver in November. But there was a snag. The three restaurants, replete with movie and celebrity, show short film clips as guest screens—a successful formula that Planet Hollywood planned to repeat when it moved in as part of a \$24-million redevelopment of the former Vancouver Public Library on Robson Street. Provincial liquor regulations, however, prohibit restaurants from displaying paid video material or screens, which are permitted only in pubs or entertainment establishments. Dennis Whyte, manager of liquor licensing for the province, has defended the decision on the grounds that



Schwarzenegger in London last week: serious

It is designed "to protect the integrity of all the different license classes." But site developer David Jobb, president of Edgemore Realty Advisors Inc., is concerned that Planet Hollywood might decide to terminate its plans, leaving investors—located in the CBC and Ontario hospital pension funds—without three high-draw tenants. Adds Jobb: "We're hoping someone else will pencil." That or it's *hate to hate*.



## How conventional

Last week's Republican convention in Las Vegas attracted some 28,000 people, including a handful of Canadian observers eager to follow the latest news of U.S. politics. Raymond MacLean, Canada's ambassador to Washington, watched the proceedings for three days and diplomatically called it "a big American drama." Also on hand were four observers from the federal Progressive Conservative party: Toronto lawyer Jeffrey Steiner, who led the Tory forces into

San Diego, says that Canadians who worry that the Republican music-TV convention style might soon be coming to a meeting hall near them can breathe easier. Canadian leadership conventions almost always observe a genteel pace, Steiner says, so they can't be as carefully stage-managed as the U.S. version. And since the contest is in the United States, where the contest is decided months earlier in primary elections "Ours are so heavily competitive that it's hard to script them," he said, that there may be one lesson to be learned at a U.S.-style convention. The Americans, concludes Steiner, "know how to do this."

## It does not add up

In the fall issue of *Canadian Business* (November), Bryan Campbell of McMaster's Gieseler University and the University of Toronto's Steve Murphy measured 33 years of predictions by eight forecasters, including the five Big Banks, to see just how close they came. Most were accurate on predicting price rises. Pegging the Canadian against the U.S. dollar was trickier. And even the best forecasts miss a lot. Everyone underestimated the huge consumption boom of the champagne-soaking mid-1980s. Government spending outstripped all their predictions at the turn of the 1980s. Since forecasters had pegged job losses of the 1982 recession anywhere, a decade later, they were closer to anticipating the unemployment jump from the 1992 slump.

## Following Fox's lead

Ever since Terry L'Ea's gritty 1980 rumormongered \$23.3 million for cancer research, numerous others have tried to follow his path by being sick, making and now even his live skating on ice in Canada for a cause. There is to be a central registry of their wanting to make the attempt, nor do police require them to apply for real permits. But the frequency of requests for sponsorship by nonprofit organizations, corporations and equipment suppliers indicates that there is no shortage of Canadians prepared to try. This summer, at least two people have undertaken the arduous journey: Christine O'Neil, an Ipswich resident from Richmond, Ont., is leaving tomorrow night to make a ride about 100 km a day to raise money for research into leukemia that affects her mother, Frances O'Neil. And Paul Cheneaux, a 37-year-old Vancouver capitalist, is cycling across the country to promote national unity. But just how effective are such journeys? O'Neil, a community-based program for residential counseling of kids, just as much money as a cross-Canada marathon, says Lee Angus, manager of research development for the Canadian Cancer Society. But on the other hand, as much can be put on the way in which public awareness about a disease or issue is heightened when a famous billboard crosses the country.

## BEST-SELLERS

### FICTION

1. The Firm, John Grisham (12)
2. Sunset on Ice, Ross, Anne Rice (12)
3. MacArthur, John Grisham (12)
4. The Last Days of Pompeii, Robert Harris (12)
5. The Innocent Man, John Grisham (12)
6. The November Man, Nick Zeman (12)
7. Eat the Heart, David Macaulay (12)
8. A Dime of Blood, John Grisham (12)
9. The Christmas Playbook, John Grisham (12)
10. Nightingale, Anne Rice (12)

### NONFICTION

1. Jesus and the Bible, David P. (12)
2. Not China Man, Joe Wang (12)
3. American Intelligence, David Graham (12)
4. The Great Pyramid, John Grisham (12)
5. The Last Days of Pompeii, Robert Harris (12)
6. The Innocent Man, John Grisham (12)
7. The Last Days of Pompeii, Robert Harris (12)
8. The Last Days of Pompeii, Robert Harris (12)
9. The Last Days of Pompeii, Robert Harris (12)
10. The Last Days of Pompeii, Robert Harris (12)

1. Fiction and non-fiction. Compiled by David Graham

## Reappraising Camelot

It's All So Much: The Last Story of King and Queen. Edward Klein reconstructs the whimsy and torment of the legends' relationship. This was his marriage of convenience, asserts Klein, a former impromptu dealer who was a close friend to Jackie despite JFK's wariness. Klein claims she never stopped loving him.

## POP MOVIES

### Messed up love lives

Friends on screen: Jennifer Aniston stars in *She's the One*, a quirky comedy about a woman who lives in New York City but whose life is not as messed up as she thinks it is. The lead advice of her brother (John McMillen), Edward Burns, who's making a debut. The Brothers McMullen was a surprise smash hit, wrote, directed and also stars in *She's the One*.

The movie on screen: *She's the One* according to the new offer through the same day that ended last 15 in the top 100 of all movies.

1. <i>She's the One</i> (12)	\$1,221,558
2. <i>The Firm</i> (12)	\$1,100,000
3. <i>MacArthur</i> (12)	\$1,000,000
4. <i>The Last Days of Pompeii</i> (12)	\$1,000,000
5. <i>The Innocent Man</i> (12)	\$1,000,000
6. <i>The November Man</i> (12)	\$1,000,000
7. <i>The Last Days of Pompeii</i> (12)	\$1,000,000
8. <i>The Last Days of Pompeii</i> (12)	\$1,000,000
9. <i>The Last Days of Pompeii</i> (12)	\$1,000,000
10. <i>The Last Days of Pompeii</i> (12)	\$1,000,000

Source: Entertainment Weekly

# Passages

**SENTENCED:** Toronto stockbroker Christopher Harris, 34, is the first to go on prison after pleading guilty to 18 counts of fraud and one of theft, many involving friends and elderly clients, by Justice David Watt of the Ontario Court general division. Harris, removed as a petson of the arts with a \$4.5-million art collection, after described his holding as "an addiction" that led to his wrongdoing. Evidence presented by the Crown showed that he had amassed a fortune of \$7.1 million through his wrongdoing. Watt also ordered Harris to pay \$6 million in restitution to his former employers, KSC Dominion and Royal Bank Investment Management, and their insurers.

**DIED:** Thomas Breese Miller, 75, the first Canadian to be awarded Great Britain's George Medal for bravery, at Thunder Bay, Ont. Miller, who served in the Royal Canadian Air Force in the Second World War, received the award, one of Britain's most prestigious, from King George in 1942 for rescuing his crewmen from his burning airplane after it crashed during a bombing mission.

**ENGAGED:** Any Carter, 28, daughter of former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, to James Wentzel, a 27-year-old computer consultant. Carter, now studying for a master's degree in art history at Tulane University in New Orleans, will marry Wentzel, whom she met when they both worked in a bookstore, in September.

**SEPARATED:** Fashion designer Calvin Klein, 35, and his wife, Kelly, 39, after nine years of marriage. It is the second marriage for Klein, who is quoted for the line of clothing for men and women that bears his name.

**DIED:** Czech-born conductor Rafael Kubelík, 82, renowned for his sharp eye for new talent and deeply personal interpretations of classical music, in Lucerne, Switzerland. Kubelík, who gave due to *Josef Smetana* for his first major role, was a regular guest conductor around the world and directed the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for nearly 20 years.

**DIED:** Author and journalist Bruce Blackall, 81, of brain cancer in a Toronto hospital. His 1985 book, *Last Call*, about his long battle with alcoholism, was well praised.

## Put the pedal to the medal

Turks flow and Taps went last week as sports fans debated who was really the fastest man alive: Canada's 100-m Olympic champion Donovan Bailey, or American 200-m gold medalist Michael Johnson. It was world record holder Bailey who proposed an unofficial solution: split the difference in distance, and race head-to-head over 150 m. Calculators were produced. The race was run on paper. And although U.S. track officials thought that Johnson would win by a step, the numbers suggest that Canada's best was by a step. But why stop there? Is the world of tactics missing, how does Bailey stack up over 150 m against Jacques Villeneuve in his Formula One Renault, cycling rival Curt Harnett or rowing powerhouse Stefan Laumann. Their handsets provided the best split times, and McLaren's did the math. Villeneuve wins, of course. He's got a car.





BY FRANCES JUNGES

*Her voice on the phone is sometimes tremulous and confused, sometimes defiant. "I have a strong emotional attachment to him," she says. "I can't change public opinion that you have to understand that I know somebody totally different from the person who has been portrayed in the media. It's very difficult for me to even think about what he did. Sometimes I just block it away. There can't be any explanation that I could conceive of or comprehend. I couldn't understand anything he would say. Maybe he was just a bit out of his mind, but in his own mind, but there's nothing that I could accept, and he knew that."*

The woman, in her late 50s, lives with her parents in a suburb of Toronto. She has what she describes as a good job in the financial services industry and she drives a late-model car. Once a month since April, she has been driving three hours to Kingston, Ont., to visit a man with whom she had a passionate relationship in the late 1980s and whom, for reasons she cannot exactly explain, she still loves. The object of her affection is Paul Bernardo, 31, the schoolyard bully and serial rapist currently serving a life sentence in Kingston Penitentiary. She speaks to Bernardo's on condition of anonymity, fearing that, if her identity were revealed, she would be besieged

# Mystery woman

by other media and probably could not work. Because of that, she told us more than a few scattered friends about the visits.

She is also aware that the relationship, as in all high-profile heposes, Bernardo was convicted last September of first-degree murder in the sex slayings of 15-year-old Kristina French and 14-year-old Leslie Mahaly, and must serve 25 years before being eligible for parole. One month later, he was declared a dangerous offender, making 18 years' women mostly in the Toronto suburbs of Scarboro between 1987 and 1989—which also guarantees that he will spend the rest of his life in prison. "We don't talk about the future," she says. "We have no plans to get married." And, she adds rhetorically, "Where can it possibly go? He's going to be in there for a minimum of 25 years. But obviously we've gotten more involved than just friendship. It's hard to say "This is not good for me, I can't see you anymore."

Her situation, she concedes, raises a disturbing question: how can a well-adjusted young woman be attracted to a man who has committed such horrific crimes against other young women? On Dec. 24, 1990, Bernardo and his former wife Sarah Hossaka, now serving 12 years for manslaughter, drugged and raped her 15-year-old sister Tamara, who choked to death on her vomit. In June, 1993, they repeatedly raped Mahaly in their St. Catharines, Ont., home. She was strangled later, dismembered the body and disposed of the parts in a nearby lake. And in April, 1992, they held French hostage for nearly 72



Bernardo in his cell, regularly visits and the resumption of an old relationship

hours, brutally raping her before strangling her to death. But, she says, she saw a totally different Paul Bernardo during their 18-month relationship, which began when they were introduced by a mutual friend in 1986. At the time, Bernardo was 24, recently graduated from the University of Toronto and trying to be an accountant. "He was just very confident and friendly," she recalls. "He wasn't staid or psychotic or aggressive with me. He was quite insecure and always afraid he was going to end up alone. So he surrounded himself with lots of people."

But, when he was alone, he let the dark side of his character run wild. By the time they met, he had raped at least seven women. By the time their relationship ended in early 1989, he had raped another seven. Moreover, when she and Bernardo started dating, he was already heavily involved with Hossaka, a St. Catharines, Ont., resident whom he met in Scarborough in September, 1987. In the

end, Bernardo chose Hossaka over her. "We argued, we fought and we broke up, basically over Karna," she says. "I was deeply disturbed to learn that he was involved with someone else." She lost touch with Bernardo for about three years. Then, in January, 1993, he called her again to say that his marriage was over and that he was living alone in the Cape Cod-style bungalow in St. Catharines that he had shared with Hossaka. Like others, it was only later that she learned that Hossaka had left him alone to severely assault her with a flashlight, burning her eyes, cheeks and thighs badly, bruised.

*They met—and briefly resumed their relationship. On the last night they spent together, she recalls, "We went out in a car with some friends and afterwards he and I went home to his place. But nothing happened between us. He talked about his problems. He told me*

## 'It's difficult to think about what he did,' says Paul Bernardo's female friend

*everything was going wrong. He talked about Tamara's death a lot, how upset he was by it, how his life was falling apart—but nothing specific." The real details of that life began to emerge on Feb. 17, 1993, when police discovered on Bernardo's desk an envelope that had him sexually. "When I turned on the TV at his apartment, and found out what he was accused of, I was shocked, totally devastated," she says. "I tried to figure out how this could have happened. Why didn't anybody see it? These were difficult questions."*

## THE SEEDS OF ATTRACTION

What kind of woman could ever be attracted to a depraved killer like Paul Bernardo? Without the benefit of a psychological evaluation, the answer can only be guessed at. Still, there are clear possibilities worth exploring, says clinical psychologist Jane Knox of Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. Among them is that the woman has been an object lesson at past relationships. "To put it colloquially," Knox says, a woman might think along the lines of, "I can't have a regular relationship, so the best that I can do is be involved with someone who is a significant loser."

Knox—who has witnessed professional colleagues fall for charming inmates and counselled clients who became involved with prisoners—says that a woman's motives could range from the benign to the bizarre. In the former case, she may simply have "some pretty negative feelings about her worth as an individual and probably not be very well-grounded in reality." Or, on a much more disturbing level, she could be a person who is "burned out" by someone who has committed a horrendous crime. "Yet another possibility," says Knox, is that the

women harbors an emotional fantasy of "saving this person." Motives can also play a role in the seduction. "Regrettably and tragically," says Elliott Leyton, author of the 1986 book, *Hunting Humans: The Rise of the Modern Multiple Murderer*, "these kinds of women are made a kind of commodity by the media." Leyton, a professor of psychology at Memorial University in St. John's, Nfld., adds that "for some of these poor, misguided women, this is a chance for easy intimacy with celebrities."

While researching his book, Leyton spoke with a Toronto woman in her late 20s who was, at the time, obsessed with Ted Bundy, the man who continued to kill dozens of women before being electrocuted in Florida in 1976. "I was watching Bundy on television and read about him in newspapers, magazines and books and had 'fallen in love' with him," she says. "And there was the strangest kind of ambivalence. On one level, she knew that what I said was right, that he was guilty. Yet on another level, she could not bring herself to absorb that her confidante was now, what she loved was this super-nasty celebrity." When it comes to people who love deviant criminals, clearly the laws of reason do not always prevail.

DANIEL HANDELSON



# 'Mea culpa nobody else'

In the end, the test of the questioning proved almost as daunting as the actual questions themselves. And in the end, the four gold maple leaves that gleamed on each epaulet of his military uniform could not mask the fact that Gen. Jean Boileau's star may be on the wane. For 15 hours last week, Canada's chief of defence staff testified before the commission of inquiry into the Somalia scandal, being intensive, often withering interrogation about his role in the alienation and destruction of documents related to the Canadian Airborne Regiment's ill-fated mission to Somalia in 1992-1993. In some cases he accepted responsibility, in others he passed the blame on to subordinates—to the general criticism of the three-member commission. At one point, when Boyle acknowledged that, in hindsight, he would have done some things differently, Justice Gilles Levesque, chairman of the inquiry, reacted with open acron: "In three sentences," Levesque asked, "do you something with hindsight?"

Forethought—or the lack of it. That issue lies at the heart of the Somalia inquiry: could the tortures and burning deaths of 35-year-old Shidane Arone in March, 1993, and the shooting of other Somali civilians by "bad apples" in the Airborne—as previous news anchors have described them—have been avoided? Instead, the commission has been distracted by the document scandal, which took place while Boyle was in charge of the military's public relations response to the Somalia affair. And for the general, who took over the military's top job in January, things are likely to get worse before—they get better. Last week, he is expected to face even more damaging cross-examination from Arthur Cogan, the lawyer representing Col. Geoff Howlett, the only person charged to date in the document case. Last week, Cogan listened carefully to Boyle's testimony, often smiling thoughtfully in the general's opinion. And Cogan, noted one observer, "will be intent on bringing him Boyle down."

If Boyle does fail, it will be the result of something that is, in one defence department insider has described it, "just plain stupid." At the heart of the affair is the department of national defence's拙劣 response to trying to anticipate outside requests for information and preparing, in advance, briefing documents known as RTGs—Response to Questions—on which military public relations personnel rely when fielding queries.

In 1993, after learning about the existence of RTGs, CBC Radio reporter Michael McLaughlin asked for, and informally received, documents related to the Somalia scandal. The papers had, however, been altered (Boyle has since claimed that the reason for the changes was that some of the information was no longer current). When McLaughlin then requested the same RTGs under the Access to Information Act, he was again given the altered versions—contrary to Canadian law (McLaughlin, who finally saw the unaltered versions after they had been given to the Somalia inquiry, later described the

changes as "really innocuous.")

As well, in what is alleged to have been an effort to avoid handing out further RTGs, the military quietly reclassified them as Media Response Lines. That move came back to haunt Boyle last week when the commissioners grilled him about a letter he wrote to McLaughlin in 1994. In it, Boyle said that the requesters' continuing request for RTGs under the Access to Information Act was "frustrating" because "RTGs have not been produced over the last six months." While Boyle told the inquiry that the letter of the law had not been broken, he took responsibility for the deception, confessing that he had violated the "spirit" of the law. "Mea culpa," conceded the general. "It's me, nobody else."

In other cases, though, it appeared to be more a case of everybody else. Boyle categorically rejected earlier charges by various sources—among them Howlett, who was the senior officer in the media liaison office dealing with the Somalia affair—that he knew of, and approved of, the scheme to alter the RTGs. In fact, his signature appears on some of the released documents. That attempted *L'Espresso* to ask how the general had not been aware of something that, according to earlier witnesses at the inquiry, had been common knowledge among the public relations staff. Boyle answered sheepishly when chastised by Levesque, who said, "It would appear you were the only one who didn't know." But Boyle retorted that, at the time, an pertinent issues like planned NATO air strikes in Bosnia and an upcoming UN mission in Rwanda resulted in so much paper crossing his desk that he could not thoroughly read every RTG. "I don't believe I should be expected to recognize that they'd been altered," said Boyle—who complained that his staff had let him down by keeping him in the dark.

Also controversial was Boyle's announcement at the inquiry that the military had recently launched an inquiry into the alleged destruction of Airborne unit signature logs related to the Somalia mission. One of the officers under investigation, Boyle said, is Col. Serge Labbe, who commanded the Canadian troops in Somalia



Boyle's warring atmosphere into the role in Somalia after

Labbe, who is currently in the process of taking up a new position as Canada's military representative at NATO headquarters in Belgium, served as acting commander of the 3rd Canadian Division Interference Company in Kingston, Ont., earlier this year. In that position, according to Boyle, he is suspected of ordering subordinates last January to throw out papers filling 12 filing cabinets, including the logs. But Labbe's lawyer, Stuart Harkin, complained bitterly to reporters last week that his client had not been informed of the new investigation before Boyle's announcement. And Harkin denied Boyle's very public accusations: "I can tell you that Col. Labbe is used to orders to destroy these documents," Harkin declared. "And he is outraged by the way he is being treated by Gen. Boyle."

Last week's massacres, deaths and apologies left some observers shaking their heads. Brian MacDonnell, a military analyst based in Toronto, said that the Canadian Forces' top brass has brought new meaning to the concept of military accountability. "They say they are accountable—but simply apologize and hope that makes everything better," MacDonnell said on an interview. That may no longer be enough. And it, as some observers believe, Boyle's days are numbered, it may be only a matter of time before Defence Minister David Collette, who appointed Boyle over more senior generals and has repeatedly supported him, comes under renewed fire. Reform MP Jack Fraser, for one, who, like Boyle, is a former fighter pilot, blasted the defence minister for his lack of will with the command problem. Said Fraser: "Collette has caused this controversy and the military's spirit de corps has been devastated." If the commission does lay blame at Boyle's feet and he is forced to resign, Collette could be the next to go.

LUKE FRIEDER in Ottawa

## BRINGING IN THE MEDICS

Wanted: carry your doctor to improve the faltering image of an aging organization beset by scandal. The successful applicant must be able to work well under pressure in a politically charged atmosphere.

Just do not come much lower than the one Gen. Jean Boyle landed to Larry Gordon last month. Then again, Gordon is not an obvious fit in the military culture. For one thing, he resembles the late General David Galant, Jerry Garcia—should-length silver hair with a scruffy beard to match his last job as at Revenue Canada in Ottawa, and there was plenty of good-natured ribbing from colleagues in the department at the news that he was shifting over to National Defence. He has heard all the piker about getting a new cut. "I hope they don't make me wear a suit," says Rivky Pettigrew, a Liberal aide who worked with Gordon during his time in Revenue Canada.

The jokes stop there. Canada's military personnel had badly from the steady drip of scandal within, and it doesn't take a marketing expert to realize that the military's public affairs office—some of whose members concocted the scheme to alter Somalia-related documents—needs a radical overhaul. Everything Gordon

needs to know about his mandate is in his title: director general public affairs, chief renewal officer, with emphasis on the word renewal. He comes 21 years of experience in the winners of official Ottawa and he knows what he has to try to persuade a tough crowd: he was among those who worked on the Tories' less-than-memorable attempts to sell Canadians on the benefits of a goods and services tax. Success has come closer under the Liberals. Gordon oozed coolness and a soft line during intense anti-tax protests on Parliament Hill, and later helped deliver a political problem by pushing for more cross-border trade agreements for Canada. Travelling to the United States, he helped persuade a communications aide to Revenue Minister Jean Stewart, describe Gordon as "a nonconformist who is not afraid of challenging the establishment or old ideas."

Gordon, who declined last week to be interviewed by *Maclean's*, will find plenty to challenge in the Canadian Forces, where media relations are grounded in outdated obsessions with secrecy. "The service is silent can help if the guy arrives as it is—referring political pressure," said retired major general Lewis Mackenzie last week. Mackenzie's blunt willingness to speak out made him a popular figure among enlisted soldiers. Government colleagues say Gordon shares that down-to-earth savvy. He'll need it.

JOHN DEWITT in Ottawa



Haggitt with wife Michael and husband Stephen. "Do doctors and a medicare delivers my baby?"

perist. Last week, as Alberta MLAs recovered for a rare summer session, demonstrators marched outside the legislature to protest, among other things, the closure of a downtown Calgary hospital. Inside, the opposition Liberals pounced on some recent highly publicized deaths among hospital and emergency patients, which some critics have blamed on the cutbacks. Noting that the government is now projecting a healthy budget surplus, Liberal Leader Grant Mitchell said: "The premier calls these people 'victims of the work.' They need to be called our fellow Albertans, our neighbors, and we need to care what happened to them. We've got the money. What is the government saying that money for it isn't to save lives in this health-care system?"

Physicians are also running high in Ontario. "We are trying to sound a warning to the public that the health-care system is unstable because of underfunding," says David Mendelsohn, a Toronto-based kidney specialist and chairman of the Ontario Medical Association's special-interest coalition. He points out that the government has set a limit of \$3.8 billion on total physician billings in the province, a level that is slightly lower than that of 1993. But the population of Ontario has grown by 700,000 since then, he adds, and even the government's own estimates say that the demand for physician services will top out at about \$4.3 billion this year.

That \$500-million shortfall has profound implications for patient care in the province, says Mendelsohn, since at some point, doctors will not do work for which they are not paid. Already, Ontario physicians complain that they have seen their incomes seriously eroded. A clawback scheme first introduced by the former NDP government now tops 30 per cent off every doctor's gross salary.

As well, the Tories introduced new billing caps for physicians in July. For example, a family doctor who bills more than \$251,000 a year will now receive 65 cents on every dollar billed over that amount, 35 cents on every dollar billed above \$276,000 and 25 cents on every dollar billed above \$300,000.

But the final straw for many physicians was a decision by the Ontario government earlier this year to stop paying the bulk of doctors' increasingly expensive malpractice insurance. Without that subsidy—which was granted to all physicians in 1989 in lieu of a fee increase—specialists working in the high-risk fields of neuro-

surgery, orthopedic surgery and obstetrics were suddenly on the hook for the full \$240,000 a year in insurance premiums. And although the government agreed in June to temporarily reimburse most of the subsidy pending a review of the insurance system, many doctors say that in the long run, they do not expect the Tories to authorize this local support.

Richard Johnston, an obstetrician and gynecologist based in Oshawa, Ont., readily concedes that, because of their high gross incomes, doctors often find it difficult to reach much public sympathy about fee cutbacks that Johnston, who is also chairman of the Ontario Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, insists that the income figures are misleading. He notes that between 40 and 50 per cent of an obstetrician's average \$275,000 annual salary pays to pay of for staff and overhead. More to the point, he says, delivering babies has become something of a loss leader. With the base fee for delivery set at a mere \$300, it makes greater economic sense to concentrate on the gynecological side of his practice where there is a steady stream of patients—and no emergency calls in the middle of the night. "There's no doubt that staying in your office is far more remunerative than looking after sick people, which is an incredible statement," says Johnston. "Our fee schedule doesn't account for sick people."

Johnston, who stopped taking on new obstetric patients in June, says that, unless

things change, delivering babies is simply not worth the personal stress and the strains on a physician's family life. And what about the prospective mothers? "Look, most of us are working with our patients. That's what we went into it for," replies Johnston. "But we're also very worried about our own personal health. Fatigue is no defense to leaving a spouse in after you've been four days on call. The judge has no sympathy."

With the prospect of a major work slow-

## The doctors and the province wage 'the battle of the spin'

down by thousands of specialists across the province this fall, the health ministry and the Ontario Hospital Association were concerned in talks last week over possible contingency plans. Among the ideas floated for moving the most serious patients to where care is available, even if that means taking them to the United States. At the same time, Ontario Health Minister Jim Wilson insisted that there was no more money available to address the physicians' concerns. And while he tried to downplay the doctors' threats to strike again this fall, contract negotiations, Wilson also al-

lowed that, "If the spin is to make sure that I don't sleep at night, it's working!"

According to Neil Noel, a political scientist at the University of Western Ontario in London, the government and the doctors are now engaged in "the battle of the spin." Both sides, he adds, are trying to win over public opinion by painting the members as the true defenders of medicine. "The government will portray it as unreasonable doctors denying care," says Noel, "while the doctors will say it is an uncaring government refusing to pay for an essential service."

In this contest the doctors may have an inherent advantage. "In rankings of public trust in various professions, doctors always rank very highly," observes Noel. "Politicians rank right near the bottom."

That may well explain why Helen Haggitt, despite being refused ob-

stetrical care, has only kind words for the medical profession—and nothing but scorn for the Ontario government. Noting that the Tories promised during the last provincial election not to touch health-care funding in their drive to eliminate the deficit, Haggitt says that "they have lied and lied and lied, and gone back on everything they said." As it tries to win the battle of the spin, the government will have to first overcome the cynicism bred of broken promises.

FRANK HEERMAN with MARY NEWMAN in Calgary

## CANADA Pregnant moms and a medicare war

It should be a time of joyful anticipation. But for hundreds of Ontario women this summer the onset came that they were pregnant is being quickly snared by an unforeseen complication—frustration to deliver their babies. The expectant mothers are caught in the middle of a bitter dispute between the Ontario government and the province's 15,600 doctors over health-care funding. Landing the charge are a growing number of obstetricians who are responding to recent clawbacks and cutbacks to physician fees by declining to take on new patients. And that has left people like Helen Haggitt, a 39-year-old secretary from Ladino, Ont., near Windsor, in a quandary. Haggitt is expecting her second child in February, a delivery that will have to be done by caesarean section. But all 12 obstetricians in the Windsor area, including the one who delivered Haggitt's first child, have joined the protest. "I don't know what I'm going to do when my due date rolls around," Haggitt told *Maclean's* last week. "Do I simply sit in emergency and scream until someone delivers my baby?"

Haggitt's dilemma may soon be faced by thousands of other Ontarians—men and women alike. On Aug. 6, the executives representing nearly 5,000 physicians in 38 specialist fields—from allergists to urologists—agreed in principle on a plan to stop taking on new patients as of Oct. 1. If the

threat membership endorses that campaign in votes to be held next month, it could be the groundwork for the worst health-care crisis in the province since 1986, when Ontario's doctors waged a 25-day general strike—the longest work stoppage by physicians in Canadian history—over the issue of extra billing. In fact, the physicians' demand for more health-care funding puts them at cross purposes with Premier Mike Harris's Conservative government, which remains determined to eliminate the province's \$8.2-billion deficit by the year 2001.

The Ontario dispute is strongly reminiscent of recent controversies in Alberta, where Conservative Premier Ralph Klein's own successful deficit-fighting campaign saw total annual health-care funding reduced by \$520 million. As part of that effort, the government cut its physicians' per-patient to \$750 million in the 1996-1997 fiscal year, down 19 per cent from four years ago. The government had planned further health-care cuts but agreed instead last year to start "reversing" money in the health-care system following widespread public anger about the adverse effect the cuts were having on the quality of medical services.

Despite the turnaround, such concerns

## Ontario's physicians take on the Tories

new billing caps for physicians in July. For example, a family doctor who bills more than \$251,000 a year will now receive 65 cents on every dollar billed over that amount, 35 cents on every dollar billed above \$276,000 and 25 cents on every dollar billed above \$300,000.

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# Two women bound for the history books



Koon: everything has a role to play

BY SCOTT STEELE

**T**wo women have remarkably similar backstories. Both are from large, working-class families, headed by parents who scrimped and saved to ensure their children a better life. Both used terms as municipal government as a springboard to higher office. Both are self young, charismatic and proud of their heritage and culture. But when it comes to politics, Ms. Chong and Jenny Koon are a study in contrasts. Chong is a conservative-minded accountant who ran for the British Columbia Liberals in May's provincial election, narrowly defeating incumbent NDP finance minister Elizabeth Cull in the Victoria-area riding of Oak Bay/Gordon Head—one of the province's most affluent. Left-leaning Koon, on the other hand, is a social activist who was lately elected on the New Democratic ticket to succeed retiring former premier Mike Harcourt in the predominantly blue-collar riding of Vancouver/Mount Pleasant—which includes some of the province's most down-and-out neighbourhoods. But in spite of their political differences, Chong and Koon are inseparable; they now share a page of history as the first two Chinese-Canadians ever elected to the B.C. legislature.

For both women, simply being there is a violation of a secret. British Columbia has not always opened its political doors freely to those of Chinese ancestry. In 1874, colonial government banned Chinese-Canadians from all political activity—including voting. It was not until 1947 that they were granted the vote. Since then, other minorities have been represented in the provincial legislature and even the B.C. cabinet (which currently includes two Indo-Canadians: Attorney General Iqbal Singh and Education Minister Moe Sihota). Until last year, however, no member of British Columbia's 250,000-strong Chinese community—the province's largest minority group—had won election to the provincial legislature. Now, with this spring's provincial election, Chong and Koon have broken through that barrier—in pursuit of strikingly different political goals.

For Chong, 39, winning in Oak Bay/Gordon Head represents a home-town victory she was born and raised in Vietnam. Still, her upbringing reflected her parents' origins. Chong's father, Peter, grew up in the Vancouver Island community of

Cumberland, 175 km northwest of the B.C. capital. Her mother, Yoke-Yee Chong, came to Canada in the early 1950s from Hong Kong, where her family had fled after the Communist takeover of their native Guangdong province. While Peter Chong worked as a bedframe-maker in a local shipyard, his unofficial Cantonese-speaking wife got a job as a dishwasher as the couple, with eight children, struggled to make ends meet.

"They did not deprive us," says Chong, who is now the Liberal's small-business, tourism and culture critic. "But they never took any extraneous spaces."

When Chong was 16, the family moved out of downtown Victoria to the middle-class suburb of Gordon Head. "There were only two or three Chinese in my entire school," Chong recalls. "I experienced culture shock." But she does not remember experiencing any overt racial discrimination. Her mother, meanwhile, taught her daughter some core economic values. "She said there are three things that you have to remember in life," recalls Chong. "One such material lesson covered the importance of basic needs—'Food on the table, clothes on your back and a roof over your head.' Another underscored the value of education. But it was the third lesson that has stuck with me: Chong and now Koon call her politics 'Before anything else,' she recalls heartily. "Before any extraneous goals, always pay off your mortgage."

Jenny Koon, 39, is also familiar with farcical extravagance. In Hong Kong, where she was born, her father, Wing Yon Koon, owned a small tailor shop and toiled long hours to support his six children. Her mother, Po Koon Tei Koon, stayed home to care for the youngsters in the home of a small, subdued, bygone life. "The one thing that struck me more than anything else as a child were the beggars on the streets," she recalls. "There was a very clear difference between the rich and the poor." In 1975, when she was 3, her parents moved the family to the west side of Vancouver. But Koon remembers having mixed feelings about her new home—and one reason was the discrimination she encountered. One day, at a school washroom, two girls tripped her

## B.C.'s first Chinese MLAs buck the odds



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Chong: 'My mother always said you've got to give back to your country'

After graduating in 1980, she found work with an advocacy group in Vancouver's poorest neighborhood. That two-year stint with the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association gave Kwai firsthand experience in helping the disadvantaged—and helped bring the personable and energetic young Chinese-Canadian to the attention of NDP recruiters.

In 1985, the party invited Kwai as a candidate for Vancouver city council. Elected as the only member of the party that she is now an official member of the Progressive Democrats, she established herself as the council's sole voice of the left, fighting for affordable housing and removing the overcrowding that plagues so many of her constituents.

estate development that many of her constituents oppose. Asked to run prematurely for the NDP this spring, Kwai could not resist. Her ethnically and economically diverse riding is where she has most of her advocacy work—and it includes Vancouver's Chinatown.

**Miles apart politically  
Chong and Kwai still share basic values**

Like Kwai, Chong's decision to enter active politics occurred later in life. But, she recalls, the common-sense conservatism she learned in her parents' home left an indelible mark. In high school, her Grade 11 teacher asked students to keep a journal. "She said we should write anything we wanted," says Chong. "So I started picking up the newspaper and reading." Soon, her entries took on a decidedly political tone. Irruption on her parents' example, Chong argued that people who worked hard and made sacrifices should not be penalized by heavy taxes. Then NDP Premier Dave Barrett's "socialist left-wing agenda," she wrote, threatened to send British Columbia to "ruin."

But when her teacher asked Chong if she had "considered entering politics," her reaction was swift. "Oh, no, politicians are awful people. Just look at what they are doing!"

That youthful aversion to politicians endured while she established herself as a career. After high school, she went to work full time as an accounts clerk in a department store—and enrolled in the demanding Certified General Accountants program. Working during the day and studying at night, she met her own ambitious goal of becoming an accountant by age 25, receiving her designation in 1981.

Three years later, she opened her own accounting firm, Kesteloo and Chong, with childhood friend Karen Kesteloo. But finally, in 1993, the earlier prudence she had received in school took effect. Chong sought and won a municipal council seat in the Victoria-area community of Saanich. "My mother always said you've got to give back to your country," she says. "I felt it was time to make a contribution."

Chong takes issue with critics labeled as here that she is too much of a conservative, although she readily admits to being a fiscal conservative. And, clearly, her philosophy found a sympathetic audience among voters in Oak Bay/Gulf Islands. When Chong set her sights on the provincial political stage earlier this year, her margin of victory over sitting incumbent Michael Carr was small—less than 100 votes.

Call was the highest-ranking New Democrat toppled in the election.

New united around diversity across from each other in the B.C. legislature, Chong and Kwai find themselves well positioned to achieve even greater prominence. "I think that Jenny Kwai has more upside in terms of future potential and responsibility than any new MLA that was elected," says Victoria-based public affairs consultant and NDP candidate David Zolty. "I would run on the assumption that she will be in the next cabinet—I think she'll be a star down the road." Liberal insiders offer similar opinions about Chong. "She will make a good MLA—and she would claim to be a good lot for a conservative where there is a liberal government," says longtime Liberal strategist and Victoria-based consultant Gerry Kreitbaum.

Whether the two rookies stick or sway in Victoria's rough-and-tumble political environment, both say that their historic election has led to a heightened awareness of British Columbia's multicultural society. "My fundamental belief is that everybody has a role to play," says Kwai. Adds Chong: "I think all Canadians should be more involved in the political process. I have the advantage of having another job as a jobber in order to deliver."

On that point, and despite whatever else they may differ about, British Columbia's first two MLAs of Chinese origin speak the same language. □

## A POLICE BEATING?

The mother of a 16-year-old boy arrested by Winnipeg police filed a complaint with Manitoba's Law Enforcement Review Agency, alleging that police beat her son, leaving her badly bruised. The woman, who is Miss, said police also used racial epithets during the incident. The alleged beating followed a high-speed chase. For their part, police say the teenager, driving a stolen van, tried to run over officers on bicycles. Winnipeg's police chief ordered an internal investigation and issued an appeal for witnesses to come forward.

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Senk Thompson, who works for the Speaker of the Ontario Legislature, Allen McLean, accused her boss of sexual harassment. Thompson alleged that McLean propositioned and kissed her throughout the last year after she turned him down. McLean denied the allegations. NPD house leader Don Wideman demanded that McLean step down until the matter is cleared up, but Premier Mike Harris said the complaint process should be allowed to follow its course.

## MORE DEAD CHILDREN

An annual review by the R.C. social services ministry found 11 more children who died unnatural deaths while under the ministry's protection. The files were found during the ministry's investigation of 18 other deaths since 1982, which were cited in a recent report on child protection.

## A CF-18 FIREBALL

A Canadian Armed Forces pilot, Capt. Ken Welch, 28, of Calgary, was ejected from his \$25-million CF-18 fighter jet seconds before it crashed on takeoff and burst into flames at the airport in Igloolik, N.W.T. The jet crashed into the main fuel lines supplying the Igloolik base, which is home to the base of the crash was extensive. Fifteen CF-18s have crashed in 14 years, killing six pilots.

## ANCIENTS UNEARTHED

Archaeologists digging into a cliff face in Ontario found what they say is the oldest known evidence of prehistoric people in North America. The site dates back at least 20,000 years, said archaeologist geologist Jim Chisholm, who led the dig. The exact location was not disclosed in order to keep curiosity seekers away.



The collision site, raising new questions about a dramatic rise in train derailments

## DEATH TRAIN:

Three men died when a CN Rail freight train carrying hazardous cargo near Edson, Alta., 200 km west of Edmonton, collided with 20 runaway grain cars. At week's end, the federal Transportation Safety Board was investigating how the grain cars managed to escape from the Edson rail yard, rolling down the inclined track for about 10 km before the fiery impact, which toppled dozens of cars but did not result in any serious injuries. The board will also look at why there have been 144 derailments in Canada in the first seven months of 1996, compared with a five-year average of only 85.

## An addict mom takes her leave

A 30-year-old Winnipeg woman, five months pregnant and embroiled in an exclusive dispute over legal rights, has locked her 10-year-old son in a room, according to the 30-year-old father of her unborn child. The woman, who cannot be identified, checked herself out of a hospital last week, where she was being treated to stay with her sister.

On Aug. 6, Manitoba Justice Terry Schwanen and the woman's daughter, 10, were arrested on charges of kidnapping, involving the province's Mental Health Act and the court's right to protect those who cannot protect themselves. His ruling, aimed at shielding the woman's fetus from neurological damage, was both hailed and derided as a debate pitting a mother's rights against those of the unborn.

The Manitoba Court of Appeal later stayed Schwanen's decision, pending an appeal scheduled for Aug. 30. Nevertheless, the woman, who already has three children, all of whom are wards of the state and two of whom have neurological damage, voluntarily entered the program.

In his written decision, released last week, Schwanen said the woman "suffers from a substantial disorder of thought, mood and perception that grossly impairs her ability to meet the ordinary demands of life."

The judge also issued a restraining order at the end of his ruling, called an order of protection, in which he told the fetus his father was a woman destined to keep the unborn child.

## Bouchard wades into the language debate

Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard threatened to adopt tougher language laws in the wake of anti-French demands that retail stores post bilingual signs, as opposed to French-only signs or like a boycott. "I am quite soft by what is going on," Bouchard said that, according to Howard Gosselin, one of the Montreal businessmen organizing the boycott. Bouchard "wants signposts to be very quiet, very docile." Meanwhile, in a separate language dispute in Ottawa, André Lalonde of the Federation of Francophones and Acadian Communities, says that local businesses that fail to improve their efforts to provide information in French will face a boycott.

# Clash of generations

If there was a defining moment at the Republican convention that set Bob Dole on the final lap of his quest for the American presidency last week, it may have come early on Wednesday evening. Dole's wife, Elizabeth, had been given the task of telling the life story of her husband.

mainly private husband. At a gathering that had already seen more than its share of treacly sentimentality, Elizabeth Dole pushed it one step further—striding confidently into the audience with a hand-held microphone, talk-show



ON ASSIGNMENT  
ANDREW PHILLIPS  
IN SAN DIEGO

style, to introduce people who had played important roles in her husband's past. There was the widow of the surgeon who repaired his body after it was shattered in the Second World War, and a nurse who helped him through his long and difficult recovery. The message, Elizabeth Dole said in one episode watching him mired it, was that her husband has "been there. He's been through pain and adversity."

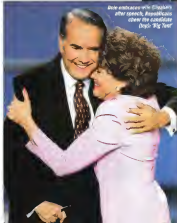
And so the Republicans adopted the techniques of Oprah to introduce voters to a candidate whose character was defined in the era of Glenn Miller. More important for a party whose contemporary rhetoric distains Washington and all its deeds, they presented him not as the master government technician that he is, but as a plowman on one of the Kansas farms and a modest war hero whose dead right arm has been essential to his sacrifice. And they basked themselves in the blithe, gender light of openness and "inclusion." The shrill voices of the party's radical right were muted as the Republicans girded to fight President Bill Clinton and his Democrats for the centre ground of American politics on Nov 5. By midweek, the phrase on every Republican lip was "The Tent"—meaning the party should welcome a wide spectrum of views and not shut their ears to moderate voters. Those who disagreed were strongly counselled by the Republican hierarchy to keep their lips firmly zipped, and to a remarkable extent, they did.

For Dole, the convention in sunbaked San Diego, was the biggest opportunity to get his lifting campaign on track as the presidential race began in earnest. For most of the summer, he had stumbled from one gaffe to another—clumsily suggesting at one point that tobacco is not addictive, then getting into a snot-on-a-fight with a popular television host. On the eve of the convention, he pulled Clinton by an average of 20 percentage points in opinion polls. By the end, with a first-round meeting behind him and a popular choice for vice-president in former congressman Jack Kemp, Dole had cut that to 10 to 12 points, with just 11 weeks to go before voting day; indeed, one poll had cut the margin to two points. Still, Dole must beat heavy odds. For one thing, the Democrats meet next week in Chicago—going down four clear days to win back lost ground.

Aside from style and tone, the Republicans made clear in

San Diego how they will appeal to voters. The heart of their message will be Dole's promise to cut federal taxes by 15 per cent—a pledge symbolized by blue and white party lapel badges that simply say "25." The tax cut represents both a gamble and a conversion for Dole. For years,

he had backed the so-called supply side theorists who argue that cutting taxes stimulates the economy and thus brings more revenue to the government. Instead, along with old-fashioned traditional Republicans, he had stressed the need to restrain spending and balance the federal budget. His surprise vice-presidential choice mirrored home the new message. Kemp, the former quarterback, was one of the earliest political converts to supply-side theory in the mid-1970s, and helped to convert former president Ronald Reagan to that approach. And with his political base in Bal-



Dole embraces wife Elizabeth after speech. Republicans cheer the candidate. Doug Big Bear

tim, N.Y., and his long involvement in urban affairs, Kemp will do so help the Republicans challenge the Democrats in heavily urban northeastern states where they had much of their core support.

Dole had to swallow hard before asking Kemp to run with him. The two men carried on a running duel for years that sometimes turned personal. Choice exemplifies of their mutual antipathy were quickly unshared, including Dole's barb at one point that the well-oiled Kemp was "basking over a [bad] deduction on his wages," and Kemp's retort that "I love Bob Dole. I just hope that our party doesn't come across sometimes as a bunch of grumpy old men." For the moment, however, any grumpiness on either side was held carefully in check in the name of salvaging a campaign that had looked like turning into a Republican repeat in November. Radical like party members were rebuffed. "Frankly Kemp saved our ass—some my language," confided senator Grimes Byrnes, an Atlanta delegate from North Carolina. "Till he came on board, we were going nowhere."

To gain more ground on the Democrats, Republicans will have to continue to do what they managed so successfully in San Diego: mute the voices of their radical, fundamentalist wing. The party leadership wanted to exorcise the ghosts of the 1992 convention in Houston, where voters were left with a lasting impression of unruly headline speakers like Pat Buchanan calling for a "national war" to restore traditional American values. In San Diego, Buchanan did not speak from the podium, and the party put forward speakers with an entirely different message—starting with retired general Colin Powell, who called the Republicans "the party of inclusion."

Even headline Republicans who score off many voters, such as House Speaker Newt Gingrich, were presented in a warm and fuzzy



## Dole reaches to the past to fight Bill Clinton

say. A video showed Gingrich sweating in the sun, helping to build a house under the Habitat for Humanity program—and in his speech he barely attempted to humanize his message by making a laudatory connection between the emergence of beach volleyball as an Olympic sport and the principle of freedom. (His point was that no government bureaucracy would have invaded beach volleyball.) Often the message was simply in the image itself: along with Powell, many black lapel badges were front and centre, so were making starry stars like New Jersey's basketball governor, Christine Todd Whitman.

The problem was that the image often clashed with reality. Convention concerns focused disproportionately on black speakers and delegates, but only three per cent of delegates were black, and only 18 per cent claimed a net worth of \$1 million (\$15) or more. More important, the party platform adopted early in the week includes hardline policies on such issues as abortion and immigration, reflecting the views of the radical and fundamentalist Christian forces that are so powerful among Republican activists.

On the eve of the convention, leaders of the Christian Coalition were boasting openly of their influence in the party. Ralph Reed, the group's busy-faced leader, described in detail how his troops had been prepared to ensure that their views triumphed on their key issues of outlawing all abortion, by mobilizing profile delegates through a sophisticated network of floor co-ordinators.

As it turned out, a floor fight was averted and the Christian forces were left on the sidelines. One morning last week, 2,000 of them gathered at an outdoor amphitheatre surrounded by palm trees and placards portraying bloody aborted fetuses. Several kilometres from the convention site, they indulged themselves in the land of rhetoric that Republican leaders were desperate to keep off

the pacifistic airplanes. Former vicepresident Dan Quayle, one of her heroes, assured them that they should not fear being labeled "pacifists." "How often have I asked, 'You aren't extreme, you are mainstream America,'" he reflected.

Roger O'Donnell, a convention delegate and Christian Coalition member from St. Paul, Tex., tipped back the white cowboy hat with a "Yab-yi the party" slogan on the band that she'd had him from the hairdresser's. "I don't think we've been pushed aside," he reflected. "Most of the people at the convention are with us. We won the convention. But here's the deal: a take 30 or 35 years to move away from American values, and it'll take a while longer to win the country back. So we can be patient."

Another Christian activist, retired electrical engineer Meredith Boney of Florida, proudly sporting a T-shirt bearing the uncompromising slogan "Intolerance is a beautiful thing." On the back was the right answer: "God is intolerant of evil." Boney was intolerant of slavery, and Churchill was intolerant of Hitler. "Things are," said Boney. "Christians are criticized for being intolerant in this party. But there's a whole lot of intolerance in our history that we're proud of. With abortion, we're where we were at with slavery; just better words. War. Some people thought it was bad, some people said it was OK. I hope we don't need another civil war to resolve it, but we will win this fight for the unborn." As for the Republicans' efforts to keep the Christian right under wraps, Boney said: "I think it could cost them the election."

There's a lot of Christians that won't vote for Dole—and there's a awful lot of us."

In the coming weeks, it will be more difficult for the Republicans to stiff their backs. They may have been able to script a Tuesday convention, but Democrats will do their best to remind voters that Buchanan and Gingrich are louder voices in the Republican Party than are Powell and White. Clinton has already moved his administration to the right on such crucial social issues as welfare: refuses to avoid giving any ground to the Republicans. That invites the economy as the main field of debate. Republicans will push their 25-year-cut tax out at every turn. Their argument is that average incomes have stagnated under Clinton, separating families even farther at a time when the economy is supposed to be in full recovery. The Democrats will counter that Dole's tax cut would send the deficit soaring, and plan to run an aggressive month of campaigning that stresses the United States' low rates of inflation (3.5 percent) and unemployment (5.4 percent).



Nancy Reagan, sentiment—and contrasts

## INVOKING THE SPIRIT OF 'RONNIE'

The most popular man at last week's Republican convention did not—indeed could not—attend. But almost eight years after he left office and half a year after his wife's disappearance from public view, Ronald Reagan showed again that he still owns the hearts and echoes the rituals of Republicans. A video tribute to the former president, now 85 and suffering from Alzheimer's disease, produced the most emotional outpouring of the convention. His wife, Nancy, choked back tears as she lovingly described the illness of the man she calls Ronnie as "this very long goodbye."

Many delegates did not bother to hide their feelings. While Nancy Reagan assured them that her husband's spirit remains undimmed, that "he still sees the shining city on the hill," they wept openly—as well they might, for both sentimental and subtly political reasons. It was not only that the tribute to Reagan brought back memories of a period when Republicans could

reel Chrysler Corp. chairman who contributed a Renaissance of Reagan to the video tribute, said of the onetime president: "You may not have agreed with everything he said, but you felt good about it." "No one says that about Bob Dole."

In some ways, though, Reagan's affliction may be an ironic blessing for the Republicans. He is clearly too ill to appear in person, or even to record a video message to his followers. According to some reports, on his worst days he does not even recognize Nancy. Unlike Margaret Thatcher, who fills a similar role as unequalled heroine among British Conservatives, Reagan cannot speak out on the issues and embrace his political foes. Instead, he remains silent as his Bill Armanian, and all Republican factions can, and do, claim to be carrying on his legacy. For them, Reagan's image is invoked undimmed—and his name is likely to be heard often during the uphill campaign battle they face this fall.

A.P.

Underlying it all will be something less tangible, but no less real: a head-on clash at Dole's side. Dole will be the oldest man ever to be inaugurated as president. At 59, Clinton is the first baby boomer in the White House. The issue, says Dole on the defensive, looking too old and too slow. Last week, he tackled that impression directly, trying to turn his age from a liability to an asset. In his closing speech to the convention, he claimed a certain wisdom that comes to one of the greatest contemplations of age. "I've appealed to voters as someone who can remember 'a time of tranquility, faith and confidence in action.' There was a sharper edge, too. When the Clinton administration, he said, there was 'a camp at the size who never grew up, never did anything real, never sacrificed, never suffered and never learned.'"

Dole did not say and did not need to say that as far as he is concerned that camp is led by the President himself. For the biggest reminder of the gulf that divides the two men is the shattered right arm that Dole was once reluctant to talk much about. Now, the Republicans do not let a moment pass without reminding voters of the injury, caused by shrapnel while Dole was fighting German troops in 1945, and his determination to succeed despite it. The contrast with Clinton, who pulled strings to avoid serving in the military and sat out the Vietnam War at Oxford and Yale, could not be clearer. The question is whether an appeal based on old-fashioned ideals of service and duty can work in an age of instant gratification, and whether a bygone war like Bob Dole can bring in the crucial MTV.

## The Perot factor

He's back for Campaign '96, as quirky as ever

It was billed as the "unconventional convention." Ross Perot's Reform Party was holding the first half of an unusual, private meeting to nominate a presidential candidate, and its memorial

And many of Lauro's supporters were getting downright personal about the divisive Texas billionaire. Perot, gruff and, in an "arrogant, egotistical little shrimp who just wants attention."



'Ross the Boss' greets supporters last week as an 'arrogant little shrimp'

flower had what sounded like a Greek idea: The mainstream American parties might waste their time on petty personal attacks. Perot declared, but the public should "desist and end to negative politics and misdirection name calling." Too bad, then, that just outside the convention hall in Long Beach, Calif., last week, the rhetoric was already soaring dimly and old-fashioned. Perot's challenger, former California governor Richard Lauro, complained bitterly that he was being denied a fair shot at the nomination.

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## WORLD

third party has diminished. The American economy is in better shape than it was four years ago, and both Republicans and Democrats have cut into Perot's target audience by taking up the causes that he champions—especially a balanced budget. Those who say they still back the man they call "Rom the Boss" are poorer, less educated and more rural than were his supporters in 1992.

Then there is the man himself. He is no longer a fresh face in politics at a time of massive disillusion with traditional parties. America voters have had several years to make up their minds about Perot, and most do not like what they see. By nearly 2 to 1 in a recent opinion poll, voters said they have a negative impression of him. In March, the Pew Research Center in New York City asked voters to state one word to describe Perot. "Stuck," ranked highest, followed by "crazy," "idiot," "egotistical," "rude," "inept" and "arrogant." The first positive response, "charismatic," ranked number 8. Thomas Mann, director of government studies at the liberal-leaning Brookings Institution in Washington, told Maclean's "The Reform Party cannot become a serious force in our politics as long as Ross Perot is at the head. He is a very strange bird, and that increasingly comes across to people."

Perot's quirky, centering style and penchant for secrecy were on display again during the first installment of his party's convention. He first insisted that Reform "not" about us," then suggested that he would not run again, and encouraged Latinos to seek the nomination. Once the former Democrat was in the race, though, Perot immediately jumped in as well. And his aides, who run the party, effectively need any chance that Latinos might have had of getting a serious challenge, by refusing to give him access to Reform's membership lists, arguing that would amount to an illegal campaign contribution. Latinos were left complaining that "this is not politics as usual"—this is worse than politics as usual.

SIL's analysis are critical as to write Perot's ethnicity as early as the year 1992, he spent \$76 million of his own money to win 29 per cent of the vote. This year, he has done no national advertising so far and will be eligible for \$41 million in federal campaign funds, based on his showing four years ago. Gerald Posner, author of a biography called *Civilized Perot*, says that if Republican Bob Dole continues to trail Clinton badly by late September, Perot's strategists hope to flood the airwaves with political advertisements and position him as a genuine contender just before the vote. It is a long shot, and the biggest obstacle to seeing it happen just may be the unpredictable candidate himself.

ANDREW PHILLIPS in San Diego with WILLIAM LOWMYER in Washington

## WORLD IN MEXICO

# A cottage industry in abductions

## Kidnappers target foreign executives

Mansore Kono's ended began just as he was driving his 1985 Cadillac away from a baseball park on the outskirts of the Mexican border city of Tijuana. The wealthy Japanese executive, president of Sanyo Valco Components based in nearby San Diego, had attended a game played by the company team, then left with two of the team's cheerleaders. Suddenly, a Jeep Grand Cherokee and a sedan blocked his car's path. Two armed men pulled Kono and the two women out of the car and pushed them into the Jeep. The cheerleaders were dropped off at the company's office in a few hours later, and the two women out of the car and pushed them into the Jeep. The cheerleaders were dropped off at the company's office in a few hours later, and the two women out of the car and pushed them into the Jeep. The cheerleaders were dropped off at the company's office in a few hours later, and the two women out of the car and pushed them into the Jeep.



Kono, Sanyo officer at Tijuana, was kidnapped last week. He has been kidnapped.



wealthy businessmen in Mexico City have already taken anti-kidnapping precautions. Security experts have looked to the capital to offer advice. Among them is Robin Ingle, president of Toronto-based International Consulting Services, who counsels corporate clients in Europe, North America and throughout Latin America. Seated behind a desk in his downtown Toronto headquarters, Ingle points a picture of desperate Mexicans

## HOW TO AVOID A KIDNAPPING

Advice: International security firms give clues in Mexico and elsewhere:

- Make your thoughts as unpredictable as possible.
- Dress down if possible, so you are not easily identifiable as wealthy.
- Very poor travel routes. If you must drive an expensive car, consider a kidnapped Mercedes or BMW with steel-tired tires.
- Learn evasive driving techniques. "Sometimes the best way to get away is to drive right through a blockade," says Los Angeles-based consultant Paul Magliocco.

preying on rich foreigners in a bid to feed their starving families. "It's amateur kidnapers who are forming the basis of this cottage industry," he says. "Sometimes they demand as little as \$100,000. Another Toronto-based consultant, Alan Bell, agrees. "Poor people go out and pick up a guy who is wearing a nice suit," says Bell, a former member of Britain's elite Special Air Services who works as a freelance security adviser for multinationals. "They hold him incommunicado for a few hours, sometimes days, and then contact the family or corporation for a ransom that is more easily paid than duped."

Instead, dealing directly with the kidnapers has become a widely followed rule of thumb—especially by Sanyo. Although Mexican federal authorities dispatched an anti-kidnapping squad to Tijuana, the company said it would negotiate for Kono's release without involving the police. For one thing, companies and individuals generally want to avoid engaging the kidnapers. Moreover, local officials attract widespread public cynicism. In late June, the prosecutor in charge of kidnapping investigations in Mexico state, where bank teller Guillermo is located, was himself arrested for ties to an abduction ring.

Wealthy Mexicans, known since the time of 16th-century Spanish explorer Hernán Cortés as the "place of eternal spring," are still finding a very place. Empty streets and a deserted city centre testify to an erosion of commercial promise. "Just being a businessman in these times puts you and your family at risk," says congressional deputy Carlos Montes, a local lawyer, in his study, guarded home overlooking the city. "Everybody knows somebody who has been kidnapped." In March, residents were shocked when four teenage granddaughters of prominent banker Antonio Ortiz Mesa were seized on their way to school. Ortiz Mesa was a high school principal and semi-automatic pistol.

The girls were released six days later, after the family paid a U.S. dollar-denominated ransom. In 1994, relatives of top banker Alfredo Bay Bello paid a reported \$40 million for his release after 300 days in captivity. Later, the kidnappers' targets have broadened to include many middle-class families in the central region. With the spread of the scourge to the northern belt and its corporate managers such as Kono, Mexicans and American officials are keeping a close watch over their shoulders.

PHIL JOHNSON in Mexico City

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## World NOTES

### BABY BONUS

A woman expecting eight babies  
caught a new storm with teens  
and adults in Belgium. Wilfrids mother  
Mandy Alward, 37, refuses to abort  
any of the fetuses, despite doctors'  
warnings that she could kill herself  
and all the babies, because the mis-  
carridion News of the World has  
reportedly moved her up to 12 mil-  
lion for her story. The more babies she  
has, the more money she will get.  
Politicians and commentators called it  
a new low in cheapbook journalism.

### MURDER ON CAMPUS

A 19-year-old San Diego State Uni-  
versity graduate student shot and killed  
three engineering professors who  
were about to examine him on his  
master's degree thesis, police said.  
Frederick Davidson walked into the  
interview room, picked up a 9-mm  
semi-automatic pistol he had hidden  
earlier in a first aid box and began fir-  
ing, they said. Davidson, who gave  
himself up afterward, was evidently  
upset that his thesis had previously  
been turned down.

### KOREAN STANDOFF

Thousands of South Korean police  
fired against 3,000 students oc-  
cupying buildings at Seoul's Yonsei  
University. Firing tear gas, police re-  
peatedly stormed the campus but  
failed to dislodge the radicals. The  
students had been demonstrating in  
favor of immediate reunification with  
Communist North Korea. Such rallies  
are banned in the South.

### KHMER ROUGE SPLIT

The former number 2 leader of Cam-  
bodia's notorious Khmer Rouge guer-  
rilla dedicated to the government,  
stating a major blow to the  
former foreign minister Ieng Sary,  
blamed along with leader Pol Pot for  
the deaths of one million Cambodians  
when the Khmer Rouge ruled in the  
1970s, appealed for national reconcilia-  
tion. Cambodian leader Hun Sen  
said Ieng Sary and his followers would  
be forgiven for the sake of peace.

### SRI LANKAN AID

Sri Lankan government forces lifted a  
three-week blockade and allowed  
trucks loaded with food to reach  
Tamil troops by ferry. Fighting in  
the country's north. Air forces had  
expelled them. For some 350,000  
people displaced by the government's  
battle with Tamil Tiger separatists.



Turkish Cypriots beat a Greek Cypriot during Aug. 11 riots: a major source of tension in NATO

## Flash-point fears in Cyprus

For more than 20 years, the bitter rivalry  
between the Greek and Turkish commu-  
nities on Cyprus has made the divided  
island a potential flash point. It is a major source of ten-  
sion between Greece and Turkey, which are  
both members of NATO but regard each other  
as enemies. UN peacekeepers, including major  
contingents from Canada, have patrolled the  
island since 1964. So when violence boiled up  
again last week between Turkish and Greek  
Cypriots, diplomats from Brussels to the Uni-  
ted Nations tried hard to calm the crisis.

The first outbreak came on Aug. 13, when  
hundreds of ultra-nationalist Greek Cypriot in-  
tercepted a UN patrol en route to the buffer  
zone into Turkish-controlled territory in eastern  
Cyprus, detouring a ban by the Greek Cypriot  
government in Nicosia. In the resulting clash  
with Turkish troops and counter-revolution-  
aries, a Greek Cypriot, Tasos Isaac, was  
killed and 16 others injured. Three days later, 300 Greek  
Cypriots breached police lines and again  
crossed the buffer zone after shooting Isaac's

funeral nearby. Turkish troops opened fire  
and killed an unarmed man who had pulled  
down a Turkish flag. He was identified as  
Isaac's second cousin, Solomon Solomon. 300  
police moved in to head off more trouble at  
his funeral on Aug. 30.

The United States directly criticized the  
Turkish actions, calling the two killings "un-  
warranted and unjustified." It said the situa-  
tion remained worrisome, and scheduled talks  
with Cypriot leaders from both sides. Turkish  
troops have held the northern third of the is-  
land since invading in 1974, shortly after a  
pro-Athens coup engineered by the hardline  
military junta then ruling Greece. The junta  
overlaid a few days later some 1,300 CEN  
peacekeepers, currently including two from  
Canada, guard the so-called Athos Line divid-  
ing the island. The United Nations, the Euro-  
pean Union and Washington have all tried to  
resolve the two rival areas in some kind of fed-  
erated state, so no real. Early this year, Greece  
and Turkey barely avoided a war over an air-  
craft carrier, which landed in the Aegean Sea.

### Lebed's power grab

Russian security chief Alexander Lebed is  
known for dramatic talks, not aggressive  
tactics. But his move last week was his  
boldest yet: a shrill public demand that his  
loyalists on Chechnya policy be fired. Days  
earlier, President Boris Yeltsin had given  
Lebed a sweeping mandate to end the 20-  
month-old war with Chechen separatists,  
which has cost 30,000 lives. Lebed promptly  
flew to Grozny, the Chechen capital,  
where he negotiated a shaky ceasefire with  
rebels who held most of the city. On his re-

turn, Lebed called a news conference to dis-  
miss Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov,  
who controls the ministry in Grozny. Cul-  
ikov had led a unit with a Russian complex.  
Lebed blamed him directly for the Russian  
failures in the southern republic. He said pur-  
suing this war was a "moral, ethnic, human,  
official and every other kind of crime."  
Lebed's bottom line to Yeltsin: "Only one  
must stay—Lebed or Kulikov." In response,  
the interior minister also opened to Yeltsin  
to decide between the two. Said Kulikov of  
Lebed: "This afraid he is going to run many  
more lives than he has saved so far."



Shopping for video games, the industry is moving almost as fast as an IndyCar on a computer-generated racetrack

# Sorry, game over

John Lowery was moving against time. For months, he pleaded with lenders, accompanied with creditors and pitched his ideas to investors, hoping that someone would extend a financial lifeline to his Discs Knowledge Research Inc., a small Toronto-based software company that was struggling to make it in the computer games business. "Our competitors have fewer problems than we do," Lowery, the company's founder and chief executive, told one group of prospective investors earlier this year. "That's why we are here. We don't want to be in the poor-managing sector business."

Despite his pleadings, time finally ran out as Lowery On Aug. 7, Discs, the publisher of one of Canada's few homegrown hit computer games as well as a widely praised series of children's books on CD-ROM, closed its doors for good. With revenues of \$15 million last year, the company left more than \$3 million in debt and a string of angry creditors. Among them are the designers of its most successful game, *Jewels of the Oracle*, "who claim to be owed more than \$400,000 in royalties, and three college students who say they were not fully paid when Discs halted development work on another game earlier this year. "This is not an easy business," Lowery says. "Learning about the marketplace has been a very rude experience."

If Lowery has found the business rude, others consider it downright nasty. Others described it as a \$1-billion-dollar industry that generates more revenue than Hollywood, the electronic games market is now claiming more casualties than a

high-tech war game. Traditional video game sales have gone stale while manufacturers race to introduce technology that can keep up with their biggest competitors—games scored on compact discs that are designed to be played on a personal computer. At the same time, publishers of computer games are still reeling from disappointing sales (see Chart on page 10), in part, by a glut of titles. By the end of 1995, there were at least 1,700 games available on CD-ROM. In the end, gruffie Brian Bannister, the Victoria-based founder and former director of Sanctuary Woods, a publisher of CD-ROM games and so-called educational software, it is likely that only a handful of follow-up companies will survive. Although it continues to produce children's titles, Sanctuary Woods withdrew from the games and entertainment market this spring after losing \$35 million last year, a result Bannister blames on stiff competition and fickle consumers. "It is a market that is always inventing itself," he says. "It goes in cycles, only the cycles are not moving on a 50-year life-like scale or at all. They're moving on a five-year cycle, and by the time they're all sorted out every year is moving on to something else."

These days, in fact, the industry is changing almost as fast as an IndyCar on a computer-generated racetrack. When it appeared in 1972, *Tetris*, the first successful video game, captivated audiences with a square ball that bounced across a black screen. In the early 1980s, Nintendo and other manufacturers began selling cartridge games that could be played at home on a television. The current generation of games for computers began to attract widespread consumer interest only two years ago, when CD-ROM drives became standard equipment for home computers. EDC Link Inc., a New York City-based consulting company, estimates that there will be more than 23 million CD-ROM drives to use in the United States by the end of this year.

Today's computer games are almost as complex as the technology that drives

## Canadian software firms fall victim to fierce competition

these. Although many games are still sold on floppy disks, true gamers favor CD-ROMs, which can hold far more data and hence are better suited to high-resolution animation, digital sound tracks and eye-popping special effects. The best games are often packed with "eye candy" such as computer-generated models of real people and killer creatures that can be viewed from any angle. As the industry has evolved, the solitary computer addict who once developed games in their basements have become largely a thing of the past. Most new games are produced by teams of artists and programmers working with professional musicians and, in some cases, well-known actors who play starring roles in video sequences that help advance a story line. Former Star Wars heartthrob Mark Hamill, told Guy Christopher Walker, and comedian Joe Fishery

in part, says that one U.S. retail chain charged Discs \$10,000 to ensure that "Jewels of the Oracle," an elaborate puzzle game that leads players on a quest to enter a mysterious ancient city, was prominently displayed. "If you are not an established publisher, the chances of getting a title on the shelf are virtually zero," he adds.

But demanding retailers are only one of several factors behind Discs' demise. Like Bannister, Lowery says his firm has had trouble keeping pace with the market. Lowery was something of an innovator when he, his son David and former Apple Canada software developer Richard Wei Kan established the company in 1988. Working from their homes, they sold a team of programmers spent two years designing educational CD-ROMs for young children. The resulting "Letters to David" series took off when it began selling schools a bundle of 30 discs, along with a CD-ROM drive, for about \$1,000. Discs sold \$1 million worth of discs in 1990, its first year of production, and double that in its second.

Discs was also on the leading edge in 1995 when it spent \$1.5 million to publish and market "Jewels of the Oracle." "What we saw was a growing base of computers installed in homes," says Lowery. "I personally thought 'Jewels' would sell over 250,000 copies." The game was popular, but sales stalled at 80,000 units when Discs ran out of marketing money. At the same time, sales of its educational titles fell flat as competitors launched hundreds of less expensive titles. "The bottom line is that teachers won't spend the extra cost on it if they can get it cheaper in a store," says Lowery.

The bottom line for Discs was a serious cash flow problem. Earlier this year, the company stopped developing its own games and began hunting for cheaper software titles that could be released at the rate of about two a month. The theory, says Lowery, was to spread the risk around and "make our model profitable," a tall order for anyone in the technology field.

Although Lowery's gamble failed, new players continue to bet on the computer games market. Ottawa-based business software giant Corel Corp. is among the latest entrants. It plans to release its first for CD-ROM sales this month. Five more will follow by Christ. mass. Despite the odds, Gail Williams, director of Corel's CD-ROM Product line, says the company believed it would be a mistake to stay out of the games market. Games now account for nearly half of all consumer CD-ROM sales, and the market is expected to keep growing by about 40 per cent a year. "You have to go with the flow," says Williams. "If we are going to diversify, we have to take some risks."

The challenge for any publisher is to keep up with the latest trends. These days, the demand is for network software—games that can be played by several people at once over a computer network or on the Internet. "CDROM was going to be the next big thing, and now the Internet will be the next big thing," says programmer Andre Lauffen, who helped produce "Jewels of the Oracle" and is now a director of Electronics, a computer games developer in Toronto. "I think they are right about the Internet." Even if they are wrong, there will be no shortage of companies willing to pursue some other dreams of digital riches.

ANITA BLANCH

## READY, AIM, SELL

Value of computer-games software shipped to North American retailers, in millions



Source: Software Publishers Association



Clockwise from top, computer game covers: "Dark Forces" (LucasArts), "Jewels of the Oracle" (Discs), "Letters to Asher" (Corel)



have all been featured in recent games, as have Steven Seagal's kung-fu chops.

It all adds up to enormous budgets and exhausting production schedules. A typical game takes up to two years and \$1 million to produce, says Chris Gray, whose Toronto-based company, Gray Matter, designs games for industry giants Microsoft Corp. and Sega of America Inc. But even big budgets and movie stars are no guarantee of success. A mere 10 per cent of all new game titles turn a profit, says Paul Gaudin, managing partner of Catalyst Resources, an electronics consulting company in Palo Alto, Calif. "The top one per cent—in estimated 30 titles last year—account for 62 per cent of all sales. "If you are going to play in this marketplace, you have to be in the top 10 per cent," says Gaudin. "Otherwise, we cannot see a way to set up a sustainable business model."

Unfortunately for smaller companies, success often depends more on marketing than entertainment value. Marketing budgets often run up to three times production costs, much of it spent trying to buy a spot on state-of-the-art. Game retailers typically charge steep fees for display space and marketing, forcing some publishers to hand over as much as 15 per cent of sales just to get a game into stores, says Sharon Spang, vice-president of marketing for Mergel Canada, a Toronto-based computer products distributor. Lowery, for

# Veronika rules

A mutual-fund star jumps ship

Until last winter, few people outside Canada's tightly knit investment community had ever heard of Veronika Hirsch. But that changed after AGE Management Ltd., one of the country's largest mutual fund companies, featured the 41-year-old newly hired fund manager in a *Klein* promotional campaign touting "Veronika's rules for KISS success." The sales pitch worked wonders not only for AGE, which in 10 months boosted the size of its AGF Growth and Income Fund from \$25.5 million to \$272 million, but also for Hirsch's career. Last week, Hirsch abandoned her charms and jumped to Fidelity Investments Canada Ltd. for a reported \$200,000 annually. "We took Veronika and made her a star," said AGE senior vice-president Blake Goldring, clearly disappointed by her decision. "We could do it again, but after this I'd be reluctant to do so."

Hirsch originally acquired a reputation as an astute investor during the 10 years she spent as a Toronto-based manager for Prudential Life Insurance Co. of America. Be-

tween 1988 and 1994 her Prudential Growth Fund earned 85 per cent, outpacing the 69-per-cent increase in the Toronto Stock Exchange 300 Index. Inspired by that performance, AGE hired Hirsch and put her in charge of its lucrative Canadian Growth and Income Fund last October. She quickly generated big gains for fund holders by leading the fund with shares in several small but high-flying gold mining enterprises, including Calgary-based X-Miners Ltd. For the year ending July 31, investors in Hirsch's fund earned a tidy 24-per-cent return.

Those results did not go unnoticed by Fidelity. Despite being a subsidiary of Boston-based Fidelity Investments, the country's largest mutual fund company, Fidelity Canada has until now had a rela-



Hirsch the sales pitch worked wonders

tively low profile. By luring Hirsch, Fidelity Canada president Kevin Kelly has dramatically boosted his firm's image. The company is now considering whether to promote Hirsch to another senior role. Says Kelly: "Veronika brings a highly respected reputation and a phenomenal track record."

Hirsch herself was euphoric about her decision to jump ship. "I've made investors the most money I possibly can," she said. "I will be better able to achieve it at Fidelity." Money, she insisted, was not her primary motivation—even though her salary at Fidelity will dwarf her AGE earnings of about \$175,000 a year plus stock options and bonuses. "Fidelity wants to become number 1 in Canada," said Hirsch. "They are very impressive." Others suggested that her move will likely make investment firms finish twice as often trying to lure Hirsch's star, however, shows no signs of changing.

TOM PENNELL

Deirdre McMurdy



# The Bottom Line

## The training game

From the outset, the strike at Boeing of Canada's Winnipeg parts plant had a nasty time. Weeks hours of walking off the job on July 11, members of the Canadian Auto Workers union closed shop with police. Hardly on both sides. Local and management met just long enough for workers to reject Boeing's contract offer. The company soon shipped production and equipment out of Winnipeg to avoid supply disruptions. Last week, its repeated threats to leave were—along with a about a thousand jobs—finally compelled Manitoba to appoint a conciliator and force a settlement.

Although various theories were floated about the factory closure on both sides, CAW officials voiced just two beefs with Boeing: training and pension benefits. They wanted the company to pay for the training and upgrading of its existing workers, rather than hiring new ones. They also wanted an improved pension plan. Boeing strenuously resisted both demands. And three levels of government eventually passed up the funds for retraining.

This strike turned out to be an especially resonant case. The ill feelings and entrenched positions on both sides epitomized the sour state of labor relations these days. Workers, feeling insecure about their jobs and angry about the future of the Canada Pension Plan, are further aggravated by record corporate profits and the federal government's pay package. Job security is the top demand on every union agenda—outdistancing the tough negotiations between the CAW and the automakers. Increasingly, employees want the private sector to compensate them in areas where they fear the government safety net is flimsy.

Management, on the other hand, feels acute pressure from global competition—as well as from investors—to cut costs and play hardball at every opportunity. Unemployment rates hovering around 10 per cent essentially give companies the upper hand. And it's become axiomatic that when a firm cuts staff or appoints a lackeys as chief executive, its share price soars.

All of this ultimately loops back to the ongoing public debate about the social responsibility of corporations. The debate reached a crescendo earlier this year and has since landed into two distinct camps. First, there's the business-as-usual school of thought. Those who hold to this view argue that the sacred mission of corporate management is to maximize shareholder value at every turn. Period.

Opposing that is the warrior, kinder faction that a company must serve all its stakeholders—with employees at the top of the list. Those who feel secure, the thinking goes, are more likely to take responsibility for the success of a venture. In his book *The Venture Effect*, management consultant Frederick Reichold asserts that anything less in the workplace improves productivity, nurtures intellectual capital and creates strategic value. And it costs less than the constant employee churn that most companies have learned to live with.

There is, however, at least one way for corporations to win the goodwill of workers and society without compromising the bottom line. Corporations such as Boeing might want to start by being committed to provide jobs for life in a fast-changing, global market. But what they also—and should—offer employees, is a tool kit of portable skills, a high level of training that allows displaced workers to lead new jobs.

Training is something that's in danger of falling between the cracks as the federal government demarcates itself. Ottawa is now in the process of shunting general proficiency to the provinces. But the private sector is probably better equipped than any government to provide practical training to workers. At a time when public budgets for training are squeezed, it makes social and business sense for the private sector to take more responsibility for the quality of the workforce. Payroll tax breaks and other goodies would make it tempting, too.

The real challenge, however, is to approach skills development as a partnership—to keep it off the bargaining table and insulate it from destructive, adversarial bargaining.



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## TRIMARK GRABS RAYSHORE

Trimark Financial Corp. is buying Rayshore Trust, a small Toronto-based trust company. The \$55-million deal will allow Trimark to offer holders of its mutual funds checking privileges and access to automatic investment. To accelerate the process of the company, which will be renamed Trimark Trust, Trimark plans to open several branch offices in the near future.

## INFLATION RATE FALLS

Canada's inflation rate slipped to its lowest level in 18 months in July, thanks in part to a recent decline in borrowing costs. The annual rate stood at 1.2 per cent, down from 1.4 per cent in June. Mortgage rates, new houses and some foods were cheaper in July than a year earlier.

## BARRICK PREVAILS

Auripac Resources Ltd., a Vancouver junior mining company, accepted a \$1.6-billion offer from Barrick Gold Corp. of Toronto, one of the world's largest gold producers. In July, Auripac rejected Barrick's \$600-million cash takeover offer.

## MICROSOFT VS. NETSCAPE

Microsoft Corp. hoping to lead Netscape's charge in the Internet software market, launched a new version of its program for browsing the World Wide Web. Internet Explorer 3.0 depicts the history of the Internet in Netscape's Navigator 2.8 and includes a search engine, support for the Web's new technologies, and a new look. Netscape is expected to raise the ante this month when it launches an improved version of Navigator.

## TEE-COMM GOES IT ALONE

Tee-Comm Electronics Inc. of Toronto has been bought by Expertise Inc. of Toronto. The deal will allow Tee-Comm to focus on its core business of manufacturing and distributing electronic components, while Expertise will focus on its core business of manufacturing and distributing electronic components.

## FERTILIZER GIANT EXPANDS

Fertilizer giant Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan Inc. gave even larger wings to its \$265-million purchase of the German company Kali & Salz AG, which owns potash mines in Germany. The deal gives Potash Corp. control of the world's largest potash mines.



Clifton announcing the find: swap a part 'move previous than gold'

## Noranda gives up on an \$880-million mine

Canadian resource giant Noranda Inc. has abandoned its strategy to construct a gold mine just outside Yellowknife National Park in Wyoming. The cost of the mine, which is controlled by Toronto-based Noranda, is estimated to be more than \$880 million.

## The price of labor peace

A labor strike at a Boeing Corp. plant in Winnipeg, which had prompted threats by the aircraft maker to pull out of the city, ended after three levels of gains.

Boeing promised to replace 212 workers who had lost their jobs. Boeing says the workers will be able to supply for employment in the plant in the future. Boeing also promised to pay \$5,000 to workers for each year of employment, and up to \$20,000 for retirement. Boeing also promised to pay \$5,000 to workers for each year of employment, and up to \$20,000 for retirement.

Boeing also promised to pay \$5,000 to workers for each year of employment, and up to \$20,000 for retirement. Boeing also promised to pay \$5,000 to workers for each year of employment, and up to \$20,000 for retirement.

## A looming theatre war

America's third-largest movie theatre chain, AMC Entertainment, is planning an assault on the Canadian market. As a first step, the Kansas City company is negotiating to build a 30-screen megaplex in the former Montreal Forum. AMC, which specializes in theatres with newly adapted modern seating, digital sound and ceiling-to-floor screens, hopes to open the new complex in late 1996. The move will put pressure on the already thin profit margins of Canada's two major theatre chains, Cineplex Odeon Corp. and Famous Players Inc.



Montreal Forum: plans for a 30-screen movie palace

\$880 million worth of gold, silver and copper. But the company agreed to drop its claim to the area after President Bill Clinton intervened on the side of environmentalists. Critics of the mine said that the use of arsenic at the gold mine could result in contamination of the local water supply.

During a visit to the \$250-million national park, Clinton announced a property exchange that will give the company \$88 million worth of federal lands in an area still to be designated. Crown lands also grew to place \$30 million in an area to be designated. Crown lands also grew to place \$30 million in an area to be designated.

Clinton announced the find: swap a part 'move previous than gold'

When Asianers recently heated for the most authoritative economic in the region to comment on stock market trends, the news-magazine chose to interview a stock-market Canadian with impeccable credentials and talent to burn. Ken Coates, the Tokyo-based strategist and chief economist for Deutsche Bank Group Asia Pacific, predicted last summer that stocks would perform like Chinese New Year's fireworks, and warned readers to 'get out before everyone decides the party's over.'

Within a week the article's prediction, Asian stock markets began to explode. The widely respected 49-year-old guru—who spends at least 250 days a year on the road, searching for signs and confirming suspicions—may well be the world's best-connected economist. One reason that just about everybody in top political and economic positions will talk to him is that he gives good advice while performing his duty. As simple last summer he advised investors to short the Japanese yen against the Italian lira and make a possible 40 per cent on their currency trades.)

Coates is in high demand as a speaker and consultant around the world, including two trips to Canada this year. On one occasion, he was taking part in the over-the-telephone deliberations of the Trilateral Commission. Whenever he speaks, he is listened to carefully. When he was in Thailand last November, for example, he gave a behind-the-scenes look at the Thai economy. His speech immediately caused a five-per-cent rise in the Thai stock market, which a local business paper labelled 'The Coates Effect.'

At the moment, Coates sees interest rates and monetary more or less stable until after the American election in November, and he doesn't subscribe to the generally held theory that the Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan, will then implement a drastic rate hike. He predicts that it will not be until early 1997 or so that the stock market will get frothy and frenzied. He believes what could be a serious setback in share prices on his expectation that, for the first time in more than 15 years, the economies of America, Europe and East Asia, including Japan, will all be expanding. That will inevitably make the fear of crash higher inflation among the world's central bankers, who will react with a major interest rate hike—which in turn will drive down stock and bond markets. Coates believes that U.S. Treasury bill rates will rise higher than their 1994 peak of 8.25 per cent.

Coates may well be the prototype 21st-Century Man. Born in London, Ont., educated at Laval and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris, he speaks four languages and lectures at Kyoto and Tokyo universities. His main assignment is to monitor economic and policy developments so he can advise global corporations and governments on their financial policies. Being a senior executive with the world's largest private bank (the Deutsche's assets total more

The Nation's Business



# Peter C. Newman

## The man who would move markets

than \$805 billion, which is larger than Canada's GDP) helps him get appointments and solidify contacts. "Ken thinks in three dimensions—historical, current and future," says Jeffrey Chabot, a former U.S. undersecretary of commerce. "He has the keenest sense of the interconnection between political and economic forces of anyone I know."

Unlike most strategists who prefer to hedge their bets, Coates's advice sticks to the point: "If any multinational company has a decade from now are not generating at least one-third of their revenues in Asia," he says. "They will no longer be global. They will remain large companies, but will lose because increasingly regional and on the defensive." He predicts that half the world's economic growth over the next decade will take place in Asia. By 2005, he forecasts annual economic output for the region of around \$13 trillion, compared with \$11 to \$12 trillion each for a united Europe and North America.

The pace of Asian economic expansion is fantastic. China's Guangdong province, for instance, has enjoyed average annual growth of 15 per cent over the past 15 years. "Back in 1972, when I first set foot in Asia, I could feel the energy. Coates told me during a recent stopover in Vancouver: 'I'd wish the single most important thing about Asia was that it was going somewhere, doing something. I could wonder they had an objective.'"

When I asked Coates the inevitable question about how Canada is regarded by Asians, he hesitated. "Five years ago," he says, "I met the secretary to the Japanese minister of finance and asked him the same question. He shrugged and remarked, 'Canada today doesn't have anything relevant to say on any of the relevant issues, and that was that. So I really think it's time we began making ourselves relevant to the rest of the world, because if we don't, it's going to pass by us. The major nations like the United States, India, Japan and China, they're like huge superpowers, and once they turn, they set a course for everyone else. We've got to become the sleek little yacht, out there in front of the great ships of state, moving ahead, getting the wind, testing the currents, setting the course. And we can only succeed if we demonstrate the will to do it.'"

In other words, we have to start, as a country, to pull together, instead of allowing ourselves to be pulled apart. "That's what for companies as well. They ought not to take their healthy competitive instincts abroad, but we must make alliances and do some creative joint venturing. We have to bring our banks together, mobilize the pension funds, invest where the growth is." That kind of pay talk falls largely on deaf ears, because most Canadians don't genuinely believe we can compete. Nevertheless, Ken Coates is not there, very much in cooperation, making his rounds, watching the stock and bond trading the trends. It's a mad schedule. His work is his life. "Deutsche Bank only has me from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.," he quips. "The rest of the time is mine."

Edited by  
BARBARA WICKENS



Privately: I can drive with a little more easily

## Living in the fast lane

Some Hollywood stars indulge in mad bursts and mania to release stress. Jason Priestley likes to race cars. The star of the hit TV series *Nervous Wives* races his Ford SVT Mustang Cobra R at speeds of up to 200 km/h—not in the L.A. freeways, he insists, but as part of the International Motor Sports Association Endurance Championship, a series of professional races in Canada and the United States. "I get to take out all my aggression when I'm on the racetrack, so when I'm on the streets I can drive with a little more sanity," said Priestley, 38, last week during a break while preparing for a race northeast of Toronto. The Vancouver actor, who is entering his seventh season as Braden Walsh on *NCIS*, has just finished shooting a feature film, *Love and Death on Long Island*, an *Italian Job* with John Hurt. And he is up for best director at the Sept. 18 Macmillan Writers Awards for Toronto pop group *Burnished Ladies*. *The Old Apartment*. Priestley, it seems, likes to keep in high gear.

## Half a punt from the CFL record books

His first punt in the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and game on Aug. 26 wasn't here to travel far to be a big one. Kicker Bob Cameron is just half a punt away



## An Englishman on tour

For many performers, life on tour can be a constant battle to keep fit and stay sane. But Sting—in Toronto last month midway through a nine-month, worldwide tour to promote his seventh and newest album, *Northern Exposure*—claims he has no trouble keeping in shape. "I was fit to start with, so have managed to stay that way," he says. Sting claims, without a hint of putting anyone on, that at age 33 he was a 100-cg lighter whose personal-best time was

10.4 seconds (that would have placed him 0.55 seconds behind Canadian world-record holder Donovan Bailey in Atlanta). Now, the 34-year-old rocker says he practices yoga daily. "I'm probably in better shape now than when I was younger," he insists. As for the daily pain? "It has been a major ambition of mine to stay sane," says Sting. "It's a little expensive maybe, but then the English have a talent for that." It would seem that his talents are multiple.



Dunmore: not overly at all

## Writing to reach out

Nothing quickens the pulse of a novelist like the prospect of winning one of the ever-expanding number of literary prizes. But what happens when they win an award after its judges use words like "eloquent" and "driven" to describe many of the entries? British author Helen Dunmore says she will take it anyway. Last May, the Dublin-based Dunmore won one of the literary world's newest awards—the Orange Prize, which honours women now— for her third book, *A Spell of Winter*. And even though two of the five Orange judges publicly toasted many of the 146 entries, she thanks the competition from the five other finalists was top-notch. "There was an extremely strong short list," says Dunmore, 43, who spoke to Maclean's while vacationing in southern Ontario the month. "Any one of us could have won it." A first-prize cheque worth \$54,000 helps draw out the critics, too.

## THE Early Canadian explorer saw currency as something to be shot, skinned, tanned and made into hats.



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# SLIPPING BACK TO SCHOOL

## SPECIAL REPORT

BY VICTOR DWYER

**F**or handsome redbrick building, its flag snapping in the breeze, looks every bit the traditional schoolhouse. For the past two years, its double doors have welcomed a fresh crop of children, and within the next three weeks, yet another 460 students will pour through them, ready to fill the school's windows with a new batch of watercolor paintings and construction paper cut-outs. But beyond the window artwork, the classrooms at Heritage Park Public School in Scarborough, Ont., will be anything but conventional. Each child, starting in Grade 1, will be invited to open a private Internet account; those in grades beyond are already seasoned users. Every teacher's desk will sport a personal computer; every classroom will be wired for seven more. In science classes, students will be equipped with state-of-the-art video cameras mounted on microscopes, enabling them to film tiny amoebae and squamous bacterial colonies—and relay the images on TV sets around the school. Across the hall in technical arts, students will have access to a library of multimedia CD-ROMs, which they can shoot into their hard drive for a virtual lesson on anything from drafting to woodworking. "Our goal was to make technology a vital part of life in the classroom," says Ilana Steen, the principal who coordinated a special \$300,000 provincial grant, and price breaks from several high-tech corporations, to make the school one of the most highly wired in the country. "We wanted to really integrate technology into the school day—into how kids communicate, how they think and how they learn."

While Heritage Park may be miles ahead of other schools on the information highway, Steen is hardly alone in his unabashed determination to put technology at the head of the class. Exactly 50 years after two American professors unveiled the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator, the world's first digital computer, a vanguard of educators from Vancouver to St. John's is plugging into a new generation of electronic wonders—and turning their classrooms upside down. Who needs teachers dominating discussions, they ask, when students can get all they need to know from the World Wide Web? Who needs exams, when the real trick is figuring out where to surf for the answers? In fact, who needs schools when kids can work from a laptop at home? "We are right now faced with a critical choice," says Therese Lefebvre, a professor of education at Laval University in Quebec City. "We can preserve schools as they have been for decades. Or we can

rethink them entirely, and in the process, transform our students into the members of a world that is coming our way whether we want it or not."

But while advocates describe a future of exciting possibilities, technology's critics are busy capturing the social and educational cost. "There is an unspoken assumption that technology is an unalloyed good—that its many benefits simply must outweigh any possible negative effects," says Richard Rosenberg, a professor of computer science at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Byte by byte, say

Rosenberg and others, we are letting technology chip away at the integrity of public education. The anarchic Web of wonders, and CD-ROMs in which dinosaurs teach math and rabbits teach reading, they maintain, are turning schools into glorified game parks. Children, meanwhile, are morphing into antisocial egomaniacs, perked in front of high-tech boob tubes that are stunting their critical faculties and sapping their creativity. And as corporate Canada lines up to offer technical expertise and cut-rate deals on its well-labeled products, others worry that lesson plans are quietly turning into corporate training

sessions—or thinly disguised pitches for the latest computer gadgets. "There is a prevailing notion that technology is the answer to our problems, rather than a tool for the choices we need to make," says M. de Burca, co-author of last year's best-selling book *Cyber Warfare: The Assault on Canada's Schools*. "In fact, technology is a choice, and it is one we must debate vigorously."

With the battle lines drawn, governments appear to be taking little trouble choosing a side. Alberta, which has cut \$224 million from public education since 1995, announced in February that it will invest \$45 million in classroom technology over the next three years. After shelling \$400 million from schools last March, Ontario doubled its commitment—in \$40 million—to a program that matches private sector investments in public school technology. Only six months after placing a unique CD-ROM-based Grade 9 math curriculum in 16 schools last spring, the four western provinces are taking it to almost every high school in the region this fall. And as classes ended in June, New Brunswick completed a three-year, \$25-million drive to connect every public school to the World Wide Web.

Others have been equally determined to launch Canadian schools into cyberspace, often with help from major corporations. Since 1993, Industry Canada has spent roughly \$25 million to create the unique SchoolNet system, working closely with provincial and territorial governments as well as such companies as Bell Canada, Uninet and Apple Computer. SchoolNet now links almost half of the nation's 16,500 public schools to the Internet—and each other. And in an ambitious bid to keep Canada in the express lane, the secretary of state for science, research and development, Jon Gerrard, presented a \$33-million challenge to the founders of the TeleLearning Research Network last

November. Lacking more than 125 researchers at 28 universities, no good, in the words of network leader Linda Hamada, is "to figure out how technology can be designed to transform Canadian students into bookish learners."

According to advocates, that will require a fundamental overhaul of how classrooms are run. Teachers, long perched at the head of the class, must now move into the passenger seat, where they will observe, coach and accompany their students on the giddy ride down the information highway. "We don't even call our teachers 'teachers,'" say critics. "We call them 'learning consultants,'" says

## High-tech glory or glorified play?



## ARE KIDS LOSING SOCIAL SKILLS

Michael Mayer, co-founder of the Virtual High Learning Community, a nonprofit private school in Vancouver. "And we don't like to be called a 'school.' We think that is a throwback to an archaic age of carrying young people and imposing a curriculum on them."

Established in 1993 is a refurbished Victorian mansion, Virtual High has 35 students. All but one or two have their own personal computers, and every student works closely with three full-time staff and countless online tutors. Many of those are affiliated with the Vancouver-based Open Learning Agency, a part of virtual university that offers its own high-school and post-secondary courses by computer. Other mentors are found simply by joining the Net. Either way, students hook up with instructors not in cyberspace, who collectively have vastly more than any traditional teaching staff could ever hope to.

Even many public schools are trying kids to thumb a

such suburbanization a bad idea. Last September, 50 students in grades 4 to 9 enrolled in a virtual classroom at John D. Broco School in Edmonton. The students worked at home, making the most of CD-ROMs and the Internet, and were connected by computer to teachers Doug Troock and Ken Whitting. Some were already among the 25,000 Canadian children who are home-schooled—a number that has grown by 20 per cent over the past five years, but others were first-time home-schoolers, skipping class because technology made it possible.

Among them was Grade 7 student Jennifer Starros, whose mother, Ken, says her daughter was "too distracted" in a regular school setting, "moving from class to class, taking time to settle down, and then making up again." Now, Jennifer sees her peers in a physical education class every second day, at school dances, and as a member of the basketball team.

Troock, an in-



## COMPUTER ACCESS

How many students share the classroom computer? Access to school computers varies widely. Below are the number of computers per 100 students in regions across the country.

22.2	YUKON
12.7	B.C.
12.5	MAN.
11.6	ONT.
10	N.B. (UNINCORPORATED)
10	N.S.
9.4	ALTA.
7.9	P.E.I.
7.1	N.B. (INCORPORATED)
4.8	QUE.

Source: The Statistics Canada, National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY).



Norwich Park teacher Andy Laczynski with students. Postman (left): wired to learn

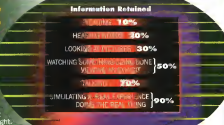
across the country, and there are plans to bring every Canadian school on-line by 1998. The 16,500 schools currently hooked up are already co-operating to create hundreds of projects. Among them is a nationwide asthma study, originally launched by Eastview Community School in Red Deer, Alta., which is aiming to make the family lifestyle and nutritional habits of students who suffer from the affliction in Saskatoon, N.S., meanwhile, Maryvale Middle School has

organized a project called Blue Print Earth, in which kids work together to identify major environmental problems and suggest strategies, and scientific inventions, to solve them. "This is a textbook approach to education," says Doug Hull, director general of software promotion at Industry Canada, which coordinates the SchoolNet project. "It's hands-on and it's relevant."

But is it educationally sound? Not according to some parents, who see the mad rush onto the information highway as one more opportunity to socialize child-oriented learning, which they see puts kids in the driver's seat—and the three Rs somewhere in the trunk. "High-tech is the latest educational panacea," says Malkin

## LEARNING BY DOING

Multi-media technology presents information using sound, images and interactive opportunities. Many experts believe that the interactive experience greatly increases students' ability to retain what they are taught.



ride on the information highway. This past spring, Brad Pilon, a senior student at Wilson High School in Burlington, Ont., received help with a major research paper on a new form of diabetes from experts at Heriot's McMaster University. Using a so-called chat line, Pilon regularly posted questions for pathologist Del Harris and his graduate students. Every few days, they fired back answers. "The subject is new, and hard to find in any books," says Pilon. "Besides, you can't ask a book questions."

But what else do students learn when teachers step to the sidelines—and sophisticated software or facile pedagogues take their place? "Setting children in front of computers for long periods of time is a dangerous notion," says Rosenberg. "To do that is to replace real human contact, with all its good and bad features, with a medium in which students lose a major part of their identity by interacting with a nonhuman agent."

Adapted to making technology a part of their school day, children may not be learning how to include their fellow students. "Fostering a dependence on computers means replacing the guidance of the teacher with a focus on the demands of the individual student—with what he wants, when he wants it," insists American educational guru Neil Postman, author of *The End of Education*, both energetic critiques of technology. "Clearly, that means failing to pass on important lessons about socializing individual needs to group interests."

Perhaps it is a sign of the times that not everyone considers

while, says that he knows his virtual students better than any in his 26-year career. "In a regular classroom, the behavior of a few bad kids can take up a lot of time. Now, I'm more involved with their real learning."

But even in a conventional classroom setting, many experts insist that computers can transform how kids learn. Marlene Scardamalia, a professor of applied cognitive science at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, and a member of the TeleLearning Network, is currently conducting an experiment with students in grades 5 and 6 at Toronto's Huron Street Public School. As part of their history and science curriculum, each student is assigned a topic to research within a broad unit of study. Using a patented software program called CSLE—the Computer-Supported Intellectual Learning Environment—each student inputs his research into a web shared with that as accessible to everyone on their personal computers. As they build their own files, the children browse the communal web, writing comments on each others' work, posing and answering questions, and suggesting theories for things that others find difficult to explain or understand.

The result is a wide-ranging, original database co-authored by the entire class—and an apparent relaxation of the client that technology turns kids into rationalists. "Now, I think about not just what I need to understand," says Grade 6 student



## EDUCATIONAL REVOLUTION

Dare, founding president of the Organization for Quality Education, a national agency whose members include parents, teachers and school boards. "The biggest revolution in psychology is open classrooms," says Dare, who is the director of psychology at York University in Toronto. "It's the idea of having students sitting at desks in front of computers will solve all our problems. When it doesn't, of course, we will all wake up to find they haven't learned the basics."

Or worse, perhaps not be able to think for themselves. That is the latest view of the brain, an essential problem in psychology at Mount College in Philadelphia, N.Y., and a specialist in how the brain functions. Diogenes notes that multimedia technology—which often delivers its message with a combination of music, pictures and interactive elements—is filtered through the right side of the brain, whose chief job is to process visual information. But because humans have long been able to trust what they see, that hemisphere absorbs data relatively effortlessly. Meanwhile, the brain's left side, which handles verbal and written language—and, says Diogenes, "thinks more discerningly and reflectively"—is underutilized by such technology. "I have watched kindergarten kids who I know cannot read, navigate their way through an educational CD-ROM," says Diogenes. "They're playing it, it's very engaging. But none of the words are going in." The long-term implications, she insists, are sobering. "If we educate kids this way," says Diogenes, "critical, analytical thought may well be on the decline."

That caution inspires author Robert Rly, whose recent book, *The Solving Society*, is a warning indictment of a culture in which, he claims, adults are failing to guide children to maturity. "TV was the mental challenge of earlier decades, and multimedia computers are the challenge of the 1990s," says Rly. Obsessed with teaching children computer literacy, he

says, we are failing to impart the old-fashioned lesson: "Children are literally becoming incapable of thinking in the sense in which it involves being creative with words and text, creating their own images—using the energy of their minds," says Rly. "It's like to say learning is to teach—a lie to get adults all the book for the hard work it takes to teach them a love of words and language."

But such critics may themselves be seeing only one side of the story. After teaching high school for 27 years, Brenda Paus began a new career as a specialist in technology-assisted learning at DPS Communications, a multimedia development firm in Ottawa. She insists that students are better able to retain learning experiences that involve sounds, pictures and interactive opportunities. According to Paus, people retain about

10 per cent of what they read, half of what they see and only 90 per cent of information that is gleaned through interactive participation. "You can surprise people to do all that complex interactive stuff," says Paus. "But it's much cheaper and cheaper to let technology do it for you."

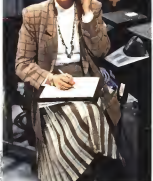
According to Seymour Papert, author of the best-selling book *The Children's Machine*, it is no coincidence that kids show an affinity for multimedia technology. The reason is visual, playful way of presenting information activates the preschool world of learning. "Kids learn to talk without curriculum on formal lessons," notes Papert. "Social behavior is picked up through other than classroom instruction." With their emphasis on action and interaction, computers reclaim some of the fun that is inherent in early learning.

For those who face the real work of educating children, making the task more engaging is an appealing notion. "Students have two main complaints these days that kids are difficult to discipline and that they are difficult to motivate," says Ken Franco, a computer consultant and teacher at Waterloo Elementary School in Waterloo, Ont. "But when students are given the chance to make computers an important part of their school work, those problems tend to disappear."

Teachers on the leading edge of high tech agree. "In the 1980s, this was a school in decline," says vice-principal Fred Johnston of J. J. Sarnett Junior High in St. John's. Determined to turn things around, school administrators invited officials at Newfoundland Power to become active partners in steering J. J. Sarnett into the high tech age. Since 1992, the company's parent, Fortis Inc., has donated \$28,000—and Ottawa, an additional \$88,000—to make the school one

Researchers at Hugh MacMillan, while monitoring the sensitivity of the pole attached to Peterson's handrest, are also working in a version of a head-held mirror light that beams camera data directly into the computer screen. Meanwhile, students such as Holly Bartlett, a Grade 12 girl in Dartmouth, N.S., who is almost completely blind, is able to take classroom notes with a small handheld device called a BrailleMate. Equipped with a braille keyboard, it can also read her notes back to her at the end of the day. And a new generation of software, much of it just coming on the market, can do the same with traditional braille—and even the Internet. "What it all means," says Bartlett, "is incredible freedom to learn."

For Edmonton student Roy Dorman, 12, it was a traditional classroom that presented the biggest obstacle to learning. Severe arthritis meant that even chalk dust or a teacher's perfume could trigger a severe attack. When John D. Breese School launched a program last September that allows children to use e-mail, the Internet and CD-ROMs to complete their course work at home, Roy's mother, Angela, signed her up—and never looked back. "Technology has made the past year the healthiest of his life," she says, adding that he plays with his former classmates in the evenings and on weekends. "In the end, he had to stay at home to be in school."



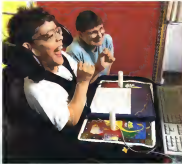
Baron's society showed its information, stored for posterity

of the most high-tech in Newfoundland. A team of experts from Newfoundland Power, meanwhile, trained teachers, while other specialists showed students how they integrated computers into their own work.

Four years after launching the partnership, administrators at the school has dropped 40 per cent, while the proportion of students graduating into the advanced high-school stream has jumped 20 per cent. Current credits a good part of that turnaround to the power of computers. "Technology is just an incredible motivator for kids," says Dorman. "Why? Why is Nintendo so successful? Kids are just fascinated with technology. That makes it a wonderful teaching tool." And he has little patience for those who say learning should be a difficult affair. "So what if computers make school fun? Through the back door, teachers are getting students to learn."

And in some cases, to profit handsomely. Trevor Johnston, about to enter Grade 12 at West Vancouver Secondary School, is enrolled in a program run jointly by the school and a local company called Knowledge Architecture that has linked 40 schools in British Columbia and Ontario with mentors from such firms as Northern Telecom and Carle. Over the past year, Johnston, 17, has performed his industry consultations to find part-time, high-tech work with Samson Mining Corp., Carmichael Mines and DTA Resources. His job is to create Internet home pages on which customers can browse trends and check the value of their stocks. His reward: stock options that have so far netted him \$12,000. "Find an area to pursue, and figure out how technology can get you there," says Johnston. "And you'll see school paying off."

Whether Johnston's is a success story or a cautionary tale depends on whom you e-mail. "We are a society drowned in



Peterson, educational scientist Kay Boyer, retrofitted in a traditional mode

"Finally, it is becoming a lot easier for them to look into the world that other kids live in everyday."

While some critics warn that computer technology will turn children into antisocial loners, high-tech worry is doing just the opposite for students with special needs. "Going through a

A rainbow of color paper streamers hangs from the ceiling above him, and a colorful cardboard alphabet is taped to a nearby bulletin board. But seven-year-old Teddy Peterson, a student at the Hugh MacMillan Centre School in Montreal, looks like his attention focus squarely on his computer screen. "What begins with an A?" asks teacher Claudine Wood, who stands at his side. Peterson, who has cerebral palsy, slowly bends his head to one side, leaning it against a foot-long pole that is anchored to

## Solutions for special needs

his headrest and connected by wires to his terminal. Using the device, he guides an arrow along rows of pictures on the screen. Stopping at a drawing of an apple, Teddy taps the pole lightly, before moving on to choose "fruit" and "apple." Gradually, he tries a more complicated exercise, linking together an entire sentence of pictures. As a nearby printer begins to type out what he has created, the boy breaks into a wide grin. The computer opens up a whole new realm for these children," says MacMillan teacher Carolyn Spence, referring to the school's 100 students, one-third of whom suffer from conditions—including physical arthritis and muscular dystrophy—that are severe enough to affect their ability to speak clearly, hold a pen or type

printed encyclopedia can be a tall order," says school librarian Dale Oakes. "Now, they can log on to the Net or slip in a CD-ROM, and they're on their way." And the highly sensitive format of educational software provides a natural bridge to learning. Says Bert Stone, a technologist at the Blomfield MacMillan Centre, a research facility associated with the school. "They can easily manipulate pictures to communicate, and from there, like the first steps to text. Once that is mastered, the floodgates are wide open."

A surge of new inventions is smoothing the way. Clearly, using a traditional mouse requires considerable dexterity, and for that reason much of the focus has been on user-friendly alternatives

Information and starved for purpose," says author Barlow. "It is that starvation that public schools need to address." And she holds little hope that corporatists will be the ones to help do that. "Ultimately, companies have to care about the bottom line. As a result, they see students as pre-workers, and schools as training grounds." With corporations taking a good part of the high-tech bill, Pearson worries that educators will be reluctant to embrace them. "To be any technology at this juncture would be as foolish as being anti-ford," says the author. "But no matter how crucial technology is to our lives, we have to be able to find time to question the motives of those who produce it, who develop it and who own it. As important part of what schools do is help students pose those questions."

Those who are helping to underwrite the transition to high-tech learning show little patience for such sentiments. "The long-term interests of our country and our province demand that we make an investment in the social fabric," says Geoff Embrey, manager of strategic planning at Newfoundland Power. "That involves making education relevant to the work world that kids will one day enter." Even many educators are now seeing alternatives but welcome corporate Canada into the classroom. "There just isn't sufficient public money," says Penny Milton, executive director of the Canadian Education Association. "And as long as it doesn't become a direct attempt to sell anything to students, I don't see a problem."

It is an era that is defined as much by a fixation with deficits as by a fascination with technology, both are almost certain to shape the future direction of public education. But whether governments, industry or educators lead the way forward, what has been a slow but steady evolution is poised to become a technological—and educational—revolution.

"Three years ago there was no World Wide Web," says David's Laferriere. "Three years from now, high-school graduates may well have a Web page of portfolios along with their diplomas. The timeline is incredibly tight, but the possibilities, incredibly exciting." In a fast-paced world, the only guarantee is that classrooms will never be the same. □

**T**he United States, it looks a lot like a high-tech trash heap in a crowded workshop on the second floor of a busy telephone company warehouse in Burnaby, B.C., computer boards overflow with discarded computer parts—monitors, keyboards, hard drives and printers. Nearby, central processing units sit torn apart, their soldered, silver circuitry exposed. "Right now, we have a couple of hundred machines out there to be fixed," says 58-year-old retired BCTEL manager Al Harrison. Each week, he and a contingent made up of more than two dozen volunteers, mostly retired BCTEL employ-

ees, more than 600 volunteers in every region of the country to find, repair and distribute the donated equipment. Often they cannibalize parts from several machines to build a working model. "At home if you break your video card, you pay a hundred bucks to get a new one," says Harrison, referring to the component that allows computers to process and display visual images. "Here, you just go over to the pile and grab another one."

But the partnership does not end there. The provincial and territorial telephone companies all provide free workshop space and assist in shipping the equipment—as do the major airlines and several transportation firms. And software companies—including Corel, IBM, Microsoft and Novell—allow governments to deplete their libraries of licensed software. According to Robert Pohn, senior program officer for Computers for Schools in Ottawa, the federal government spends \$1.3 million annually administering the program.

In three short years, more than 16,000 computers and 30,000 pieces of software have been sent to students across Canada. Recently, public libraries were added to its list of recipients. Meanwhile, retirees like Vic Davidson, 56, who puts in at least 24 hours each week at the Burnaby centre, say their own reward is a sense of accomplishment. "I love coming here," he says. "To me it is like going to heaven school."

But the program's most enthusiastic supporters are in the classroom. Bob Robertson teaches 20 students at Foundation Alternative, one of 23 programs for kids with special needs in the Vancouver School Board. Some of his students have low self-esteem, others have been chronically truant. But with annual funding of only \$1,200 for supplies, his speeches could not afford computers. Since last fall, his students have received six through the program, as well as two printers, a modem and a CD-ROM player. Robertson says the equipment has improved his students' spelling, organizational and analytical skills. "When you see the difference," he says, "you can't believe it."

Demand for the donated material far outpaces supply. But the ever-changing nature of computer technology is sure to spell good news for pupils. "There seems to be a very short shelf life for today's technology," says Pohn. "There is a mind-set out there that newer is better." That fact alone should ensure schools a steady supply of decent equipment.

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Andy Wilkman, Annet, Marjorie volunteers rebuilding

ees, come to the centre to refurbish slightly outdated computers—286s, 386s, even the old 486. Once up and running, the equipment is shipped out to schools and libraries. "Is a lot of people these are junk," says Harrison. "But to somebody who doesn't have a computer—or has one that is even older—they are a godsend."

The gifts are part of an industry Canada initiative called Computers for Schools, launched in the fall of 1993. Deemed as a vehicle for Ottawa to channel its "surplus" computer equipment to schools across Canada, it has since expanded to include all provincial and territorial governments as well as the private sector. The backbone of the operation, however, is the Canadian branch of the Telephone Pioneers of America—a service organization comprised of current and former telecommunications workers—who provide

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## SLAPP-happy

Grassroots protesters say they are being gagged

He was just a teenager then, but Kevin Thomas still holds vivid memories of his 1987 visit to a Lubicon Cree community in Alberta "intense poverty, no running water and land completely littered with oil pump jacks and pipelines." So three years later, when a Canadian son of the Japanese conglomeration Daihatsu began legalizing oil land, the Lubicon were fighting to reclaim, he answered the natives' appeal for outside help. As a member of the Friends of the Lubicon lobby, Thomas helped orchestrate

merely exercising their right to free speech. There is even a catchy acronym for the retaliatory legal tactic: SLAPP, short for strategic lawsuits against public participation. "As the public becomes more informed and involved, the SLAPP is being used to suppress that kind of democratic uprising," stresses David Boyd, a lawyer for the Sierra Legal Defence Fund, which is representing the Friends. The suit, says Lubicon ally Thomas, now a 28-year-old Toronto legal researcher, "is about shutting us down by the sheer



a 1991 nationwide boycott of companies that buy paper products from Daihatsu's Winnipeg plant. And the Friends credit the boycott for shutting down Daihatsu's sales over night.

But this David versus Goliath story has an edge. Claiming that the boycott had cost the company \$5 million in lost sales, Daihatsu executives went to Ontario Divisional Court last January and won an injunction forcing the Friends to halt their boycott. The court ruled that it was illegal for the lobby group to economically threaten Daihatsu's customers. This fall, the company's lawyers will be back in court trying to make that injunction stick—and serving up to \$12 million in damages.

The Friends of the Lubicon are among a select but growing number of Canadians who find themselves on the wrong end of lawsuits for what they claim is

Lubicon picketing  
Daihatsu offices  
'shutting us down'

weight of the paperwork, money and time involved."

The plaintiffs, of course, dispute. They vehemently deny any scorched-earth campaign as trying to stifle public protests, arguing simply that the boycott of Daihatsu's customers is an illegal attempt to damage the company. "We waited for years, but it got to the point where we had to take action to protect ourselves and our customers," says senior Daihatsu executive Tom Cochran. Indeed, some lawyers argue that there is no such thing as a SLAPP. The fact that judges now lit to impose an injunction against the Friends is an indication that Daihatsu's case was not frivolous, points out John Hunter, a Vancouver lawyer who has represented Maclean's. Should face in cases where similar accusations were made. "The people characterizing them as SLAPP suits are the ones

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# NEWS TALK RADIO

being used, or are sympathizers," he says. The term itself originates south of the border. The tactic of dragging special interest groups and outside organizations into court emerged in the United States in the early 1970s, say academics who track suspicious lawsuits. "Tens of thousands of Americans have been sued, and untold thousands have been silenced by threats," write George Firing and Penelope Canavan in their 1996 book, *Sloppy: Getting Sued for Speaking Out*. The tactic has become so widespread in the United States that nine states, including California and New York, have passed laws to stop the proliferation of lawsuits aimed at simply pushing critics. These laws include provisions requiring plaintiffs to pay the defendant's legal costs when cases are dismissed.

In Canada, where SLAPPs have not entered the legal lexicon, public interest groups are hounding the French of the Lubicon case with make a bit of history. "It is generating a lot of publicity and making it clear that the legal system is ill-equipped to deal with SLAPPs," says defence lawyer Boyd. But this is not the first Canadian case to touch on the subject. In 1992, MacMillan Bloedel filed a suit against the Gwich'in Conservancy Association in British Columbia when the citizens' group opposed plans to turn company forest on the Gulf Islands into residential subdivisions. And the Sierra defence fund has accused the B.C. Artificial Reef Society of using a SLAPP to stave a judgement for libel after she wrote that the society's practice of sinking old navy ships for recreational diving was causing environmental damage. This was not a SLAPP, says Tim Einarson, a society director. "If we had an all-terrain to seek redress, we would do it."

The disagreement about what is and what is not a SLAPP underscores the need for legislation, say some observers. Chris Tellefsen, a University of Victoria law professor who has been tracking suspicious cases in Canada since the early 1990s, argues that anti-SLAPP legislation would solve the grey legal area. He and former New Democrat MP Lynn Harenc who represented the Gulf Islands during the Gobeau suit, are lobbying for new provincial legislation that would discourage such suits. They want a law that would force any case that a court defined as a SLAPP to be quickly tossed out, and the defendants compensated for their costs. For some, at least, their opponents are maintaining an unperurbed air about the fuss, disavowing the branding they get from activists with all the attention on their efforts a mosquito. "There are a million corporations being boycotted," says Dennis Fitzgerald, MacMillan Bloedel's manager of environmental communications. "These campaigns are now the way of the world. But it's not very often," he adds, "that they leave us annoyed."

RUTH ANDERSON

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Or the coast of Squamish, B.C., this summer, a film crew is grinding the Pacific waters and getting ready to free Willy yet again. In *Free Willy 3*, the problem-prone Orca is once more under threat, this time from evil whaling crews. Victrolas are a guaranteed element in the box office, although the number of *Willy* aquaria is starting to stretch credibility about just how much trouble one poor whale can get into. But Hollywood's megaplot and accountants need not despair: Just 15 lies down the coast, Vancouverites are arguing about the treatment of whales at the city's popular aquarium. And the real-life story has a cast of heroes and villains and enough plot twists to see a screen writer through the making of *Free Willy 4*.

In this confrontation, however, everybody believes that they're the good guy. It's hard to believe the battle over whales at the Vancouver Aquarium will actually be settled to anyone's satisfaction without a waterlogged Solomon offering to carve an Orca in half. Vancouver is ground zero in the battle between those who value the educational and scientific value of keeping the mammals in a tank, and those who want to, well, set them free. The city's aquarium is an important local tourism fixture, bringing more than 900,000 visitors a year to its downtown Stanley Park locale—and the whales are a big draw. But Vancouver is also in the forefront of the world's best-known whale advocates, Greenpeace and the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. Both sides, of course, claim they have the more moral best interest at heart.

It's an old argument, but it returned to the news with a fury this month. The Vancouver Parks Board, which is the aquarium's landlord, said it was considering a bylaw that could prohibit them from importing any more whales, dolphins or narwhals. It will also look at banning the aquarium from swapping whales with other facilities. Parks officials have asked the aquarium and other interested parties to submit proposals for a future after the last whale is gone—although no one is suggesting that the aquarium's current complement of two killer whales, one dolphin and six belugas will have to leave. The public meeting is scheduled for Sept. 30, and each side is already factoring its arguments.

"A huge waste of time and money," is how the aquarium's executive director, John Nightingale, characterizes the public showdown. "It will be D-Day," counters Angus Sore, director of the Coalition for No Whales in Captivity. Christens, the parks board chairman, says he and other board members are simply trying to "reframe" the conflict: he is a labor lawyer by profession, although he is personally opposed to keeping whales in captivity. Christens says he is "sick and tired" of the several whales that have died. "It's unfortunate how much of the board's time and energy I hope that forcing all sides

## Wildlife

# To free or not to free



## Vancouver's aquarium is a battleground for a whale lovers' tiff

to put their proposals on paper since and for all will finally see the battle between the aquarium's dues and fees. Not likely involved in the issue is so high that the parks board is considering moving the discussion from city hall to a downtown convention facility to accommodate the number of people who may want to be heard.

The latest showdown was sparked when one of the aquarium's killer whale calves died shortly after birth last year. This was the third time that the female Bessie had become pregnant by her mate Pioneer, and the third time the offspring died. Aquarium officials insist that early deaths are not unusual even in the wild. But many

Vancouverites were distressed by the reported news of young whales dying in captivity. In order to prevent further breeding, the aquarium decided to exchange Bessie for another whale to share the four-million-liter tank with Pioneer.

But last November, aquarium officials announced they had been unable to find a new companion for Bessie. To keep Bessie and Pioneer apart, Nightingale and his staff resorted about expanding the size of the killer whale pool. The parks board balked at that, and insisted there would be no expansion without a public vote. "What another whale was under way."

The aquarium announced it would stop

capturing whales for display purposes five years ago. But Nightingale doesn't want to be prevented from exchanging whales with other marine institutions. He is currently trying to find a new home for the sister of Goli, the aquarium's year-old female beluga and the only surviving whale born at the Vancouver Aquarium, to ensure the two don't mate. "We're saying to the public, 'Don't be our hands behind our back,'" said Nightingale, who was vice-mayor in Alberta last week but made sure to return calls on the issue. "Decisions about what's best for the individual animal must be made by the experts who take care of them and have responsibility for

them, not by politicians on a basis that has nothing to do with animal care."

But Sore is a formidable campaigner. She was part of the Vancouver Humane Society's successful lobby to phase out the Stanley Park zoo—which Vancouver voters agreed to close in a 1993 referendum. All that now remains of the aquarium's former neighbor in the park are a handful of penguins slated to be relocated by the end of the year, and a single elderly polar bear named Turk. Although her group, No Whales in Captivity, has a mere 1,000 people on its mailing list, Sore has the backing of the Vancouver Humane Society. And her beliefs are matched by a touch for south-

side politics. "Keeping highly intelligent mammals in captivity for profit is like the slave trade," she asserts. And Sore wants to see a tough bylaw that will ensure that no more whales or dolphins end up in Stanley Park pools—that means no "hopeless you can swim whales through. No more whales, no matter what," she says.

Nightingale rejects Sore's absolutism. "The activists have a lot of emotion but no real knowledge," he contends. "They don't take care of whales, they don't raise money. All they do is carry signs around." And he delights putting whales on public display. "I just don't think you can have a good aquarium—much less a world-class aquarium—but particularly an aquarium that's educationally effective, without the entire spectrum of the aquatic world to show people. Particularly, for the kids."

But not all youngsters are so sure that's what's best for whales. Willy has done for Orca: given them human desires for peace, freedom and the pursuit of happiness. Vancouver radio opera-late host Jon McCoub used to be a fan of the whales at the aquarium but found himself "revisiting his beliefs when his daughter, Quinn, now 14, said she felt whales should be left in the ocean. "Even as a little kid she didn't think they should be in captivity and that kind of changed my thinking about it," says McCoub. "And she was a convert well before *Free Willy*."

The general public is probably more confused than divided on what's best for the whales. A McGeorge & Mural poll taken less than two weeks after the killer whale calf's death in March, 1995, showed 63 per cent of the 381 respondents were opposed to keeping whales in captivity but only 33 per cent said that the whales should be freed. More than one-third felt the whales should not only remain at the aquarium but be allowed to breed. "It's definitely a hot-button issue," says McCoub about the West Coast love affair with whales. "It certainly gets the hairs going." McCoub got a taste of the potency of the debate this month when the lines lit up after his on-air editorial urging a "gradual phase-out of marine mammal exhibits."

But there are also voices of moderation from unlikely quarters. Paul Watson, the controversial West Coast eco-warrior and founder of the Sea Shepherd Society, says although he is vehemently opposed to capturing whales on the open sea and moving them into aquariums for show, he sees no reason why the Vancouver Aquarium should be prevented from accepting for whales already in captivity. "I think that if a whale is coming from another facility to the Vancouver Aquarium, they're probably going to be better off," he says. "There are very few facilities in the world that are up to the caliber of the Vancouver Aquarium. In other words, free Willy if possible."

MARK LEBEN YOUNG in Vancouver



## George Bain

## A phoney debate over cigarette addiction

**B**ecause I hadn't spotted a smoker among them, I did an informal survey of the people I see most and know best to find out about their smoking habits—past, and, in case I had missed something, present. I was right, none smoked. All but two of the two dozen had smoked at one time.

All in this group, with a couple of exceptions, are in, or close to my own age group, which is the 70s. Most had smoked for a long time before they quit last year. One, a career naval officer, gave up smoking relatively early in circumstances of little economic reward, considering that cigarettes aboard ship were then 10 cents a pack. One quit on doctor's orders. The rest did it on their own.

Even if I confine this small survey to my own experience, I can say that not all of these are people of steely self-discipline, needing only to make the decision for a thing to be done, at once, and forever. I gave up cigarettes some time in my late 30s, having begun in the mid-twenties. After several years off, I went back. I don't know why. In a couple of years, I quit again, this time for good.

The first one that began when I woke up one morning with a hangover. The thought of a cigarette first, and then several days, was rejected. When that passed, no reason turned up to say I should remain. The purpose of this column is to enlighten and to be critical, not to argue. It is written with no illusion that it will be found entirely endorsing. It is written simply in observance of a fact—that, in 1896, we in North America are undergoing another spate of mass panics about smoking and what needs to be done about it and occasionally can be or are entitled to know that it is my belief that the harm reasonable has never excluded the unreasonable.)

These recurrent alarms about smoking as an ever-enlarging menace—nowadays routinely and at length covered by the media—go back at least 20 years, not that smoking has been recognized as a Bad Thing for only that long. Boys in the 1800s and perhaps the 1700s probably were being told, as I was in the 1900s, that smoking would stunt their growth, an assertion like some others on smoking that remains unproven.

Once, it was smoking—one person at a time—that was bad, the practitioner deliberately drawing smoke into the lungs to his or her own satisfaction and perhaps destruction. Now the antismoking message is not so much aimed at smokers as it is at nonsmokers, fearful of being exposed to smokers' used smoke and ready-made lobbyists for confining the decision to smoke or not to smoke as privately as possible.

According to the theory of transient smoke, it will be not only the boy who smokes who will grow up short, but any friends who

are around when he does it. Two items symbolic of 1996 in Canada as a vintage year for smoke alarmers are, in July, the lush crop of stores, countryside, on Toronto City Council's decision to ban smoking, flat out, in clubs, bars and restaurants, and, in August, two detailed proposals set out by Richard Buggen, chief medical officer for the Eastern Arctic. They are for consideration by community leaders for reforms of smoking rules as what will become November 1999.

As between the Toronto story and the Eastern Aortic, the first is less surprising, given that Toronto likes to be seen as world class in everything, evidently including political correctness. The scope of the second is surprising, indeed. It encompasses not just a plan to create segregated areas for smokers and non-smokers

just about everywhere people come together, but a scheme the author acknowledges is probably inescapable of being accepted just to swallow the sale at storage of tobacco products altogether. I had thought the Far North, with fewer people more widely scattered, and consequently fewer cars and trucks and industry than, say, Toronto, would provide enough clean air in any day and night to compensate the lungs for a few hours in the cab. But, evidently not.

**SMOKE** theory that made this the anti-smoking smoking year for me was the one that showed how innocent smoke can infiltrate even a U.S. presidential campaign. He: member the knock on the head it gave Bob Dole, early on, when he gave a couple of sufficiently condemning answers to questions about smoking? He found himself on television and in the newspapers being followed by a squad of young Democrats, with posters suggesting he was the "biggest liar" in the White House. He was walking cigarette-filmed the Platt Man. Dole's an had been to see that smoking was addictive. He said sometimes. He didn't seem to know that as to be addictive is not new a matter or opinion.

That's where my survey comes in. Some of us spent time overseas in the general services in the Second World War. Government-sanctioned postal and taxation arrangements (benefitted friends in Canada to ship large packages of 300 and 500 cigarettes, as I remember it, a decent amount from the factory

At one point, I had a lot bag intended to hold everything I owned filed with these large cartons of cigarettes. If anything was designed to ensure smokers became addicts (addiction: the state of being given up to something, to such an extent that its cessation causes severe distress), that was it.

What is wrong with the current insistence on smoking as addictive, not simply a bad habit, is that the term carries an implication of helplessness. The trauma (see personal recollection above) isn't all that severe.

On September 29, one thousand of

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adversary: Work with us and you'll be part of the

world's largest countrywide AIDS fund-raising

quest. First of all, you'll be looking at **IT'S** someone

There is some more information

has to be done and we really need your help. So

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Because it's time to fight this disease on our feet.

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**A golf saga delights; a baseball tale strikes out**

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# Allan Fotheringham

## A surreal gathering of millionaires

It's like being trapped on the Pacific Princess filled with people who wear fuzzy hats and have short hair. It's like being a prisoner in a penthouse without walls, where the sun shines and there's always somebody at the microphone talking about how poor they were when young.

We would be talking about the Republican convention in San Diego where one-third of the 1990 delegates tediously toiled for millionaires and the entire Hispanic community of Southern California has been consigned.

San Diego advertises itself as the most beautiful city in the United States (it is not, San Francisco is). Despite being the sixth-largest city in America, it still has—as a local water pipe it is—"a vaguely Mexican look." The usual new glass towers cannot obscure the basic orange and pink motif that spells out the 1930s/1940s look of the California that Hollywood loved.

I have been here since the U.S. army in the closed-off Galesburg Center, and six blocks from the convention, there once resided 75 saloons, 129 warehouses, and the police chief made world headlines when he rounded up 130 ladies one night.

Your trusting agent is housed in a magnificent pile of stone called the Ulysses S. Grant Hotel, built in 1909 in honor of the Civil War hero and later president. Jack Keen (whose son is a congressman for the Western Alliance) could play a football game in the lobby. Each afternoon, a pianist plays a harp and tea is served.

This evening, Charlton Heston is holding a party fund-raising event at Planet Hollywood across the street, where all the blacled soap of all the millionaire delegates bring girls who haven't yet graduated in luxury. Huge spotlights swing through the tower and rain from overhead. As they swing, the armchair was kept off the garden path only by a five-foot plastic barrier, short enough that they can only gaze and hate.

As the glittering suit and, the obligatory gay/lesbian protest demonstration arrives and serious negotiations and naughty words above the trail barrier. As the rock band pounds, as the nervous delegates die into the TenMiles, the police motorcycles arrive to separate the black-clad fans. Then the police horses. Moans, screams Washington's Mark Russell, joined the chili

into the night, the music pounds, raring the windows of my room a half-block away. It is surreal. Research my window, there are across the street a large, fat white man of perhaps 25, dressed exactly in black. He lounges, smoking, under the overhang of the Plaza Hotel, one of those old-fashioned joints with the vertical signs in two rows of letters. He is there planted on the pavement for five days, most of my five nights, conversing friendly-like with the young blond hookers who are zoned from another planet. The Ginkgo is not far from the family-owned Republicans.

There are 50,000 boats in San Diego. Most of them seem to be tied up at the yacht basin attached to the Convention Center where people dressed as elephants took horses while passing amendments against illegal immigration. Some of the yachts are larger than Rhode Island.

On the beach to the left, there is a party before the fireworks display, featuring wine white wine and Norman Mailer, who is here to write for George, the ad-heavy magazine run by John F. Kennedy Jr. "I started with the father," says Mailer, "and I ended with the son." JFK Jr., surrounded by high-class brunettes, smiles. How sad.

Don Quixote speaks, looking more juvenile than when he pretended to be vice-president and couldn't spell potato. Elizabeth Dole, the senate president, does her Oprah act on the delegates' floor, touching the seriously arranged eyebrows like old Robert Redford. One expects things to end well and is surprised when they don't.

Twenty minutes away in Tijuana, where they assassinate Mexican presidential candidates and regularly kidnap for ransom two executives. As they did last week when they watched the California president of a Sony Electronics division from a company baseball game. The local paper says Tijuana has been disappointed in economic overflows from the convention. At my elevator in the Ulysses S. Grant, a chap in the obligatory blue Maser says to his companion "I've invested \$30 million! But that's 10 per cent of your total wealth!"

The immigration service claims to apprehend 2,000 illegal Mexican immigrants in every 24-hour period. So how many others get through? Latinos and Asians together are more than 40 per cent of California's population. Latinos will be the majority by 2005. California has one of the world's highest rates of prisoners in population. Jack Keen, who made himself a party outcast by jointly blurring the state's Proposition 187 that would have closed schools and hospitals to illegal immigrants, saw as the new vice-presidential candidate says he has switched his views. The former Calgary Stampeder quarterback knows for his maverick ways has demonstrated how quickly he can take orders from the bench.

The yachts are surreal. So is a party, largely planting tiny violins and organ pipes as a made-for-TV convention, that can wear a platinum—that Bob Dole says he has never read—to the reverse.



ILLUSTRATION BY JIMMY KEMP



## HOW THE GAME OF ICE HOCKEY WAS INTRODUCED TO THE COUNTRY OF SOUTH AFRICA.



Calgary International Airport. 3:00 p.m.

The signs begin:

Success! And, success! Airline tickets and station bag checks set on winning their international hockey tournament in Copenhagen.

Little did I know, the effort competition would be Murphy's Law.

Copenhagen. 6:00 a.m.

"Our luggage is delayed!" I asked. "It's arriving tomorrow via South Africa," the airport clerk explained politely. "Tonight's game isn't in South Africa," I smiled through clenched teeth.

Let's Sporting Goods. 1:00 p.m.

Needless to say, the shopkeeper was pleasantly surprised to see an entire hockey team being outfitted with brand new equipment. But he was dead when compared with my little guys who relied through the new year like a new bed-days all around. As I watched them I thanked my lucky stars for Visa® Gold card's purchasing power. I never thought I'd have to use it, but then again I never thought I'd need half the added benefits that came with my Visa Gold card. I guess the best defense

against Murphy's Law is never say never. That said, just as I was locating a sign of hotel, young Jeremy, or Pocket as he prefers, tagged on my coat tails.



De Julian's Office. 2:00 p.m.

It turned that Pocket's address label still was strategically placed in his hockey bag which, of course, was somewhere over Algeria at this point. I called up the Visa Gold hotline and they gave me a list of English speaking doctors. Pocket got his minder re-focused and we headed for the rink.

Copenhagen Sports Arena. 6:00 p.m.

As the kids took to the ice and I removed the few remaining Jews tags from their belts, I celebrated our first victory—we had beaten old Murphy. And the first star of the game, in premature finale, was definitely my Visa Gold card. But then again, I guess that's why they say "it's the only card you need."



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